

THE
SECRETARIES
STVDIE:
CONTAINING NEW
familiar Epistles:
OR
DIRECTIONS,
for the formall, orderly, and iudicious
inditing of Letters.

Whether

Amorous.
Morall.
Oeconomicall.
Politcall.
Obiurgatory.
Excusatory.
Petitionary.
Gratulatory.
Nuncupatory.

OR

Louing.
Civil.
Houshold busines.
Wittie.
Chiding.
Excusing.
Requesting.
Giuing thankes.
Relating Newes.

By Thomas Gainsford, Esq.

Sic iunat indulgere fugacibus horis.

LONDON

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shop in Fleetstreet, ouer against the Conduit.

1616.

TO THE RIGHT HOPEFUL YONG GENTLEMAN

Maister John Mounson at Charter-house,
and as likely to aduance his Vertues to Hono-
rable eminency, as any ex pectation
can warrant.



Generous Youth, without other ceremony or complement, I am now to aduēture a iourney (and a fearefull one) as the first voiage that euer I made into the streights of opinion, or seuere Censure : so that politick and temporising-men would contract a sure bargaine with some rich merchant, honorable patron , or sufficient Statist to protec^t and countenance the enterprise : But in despight of aduerse Fortune, or calumniation, I haue made choyce of your loue, fauor, vertue, and good condition , of which I take the aduantage in your virgin chastitie, and soules puritie, and wherein I will as much reioyce, as if larger embraces had opened themselues to make me credulous of sincere welcome : Bee therefore your selfe, (expectable Gentl:) and doe but loue mee for olde loues sake ; and I shall bee so proud, yea, presumptuous in your acceptation, that neyther windes nor seas shall affright mee, vntill I haue made a satisfactory voyage ; or (beeing ouer-freighted with heauy Fortune) sincke the whole Stocke or Remaine of mine abilities in this kinde, in other like aduentures : which if it should so fall out, I could but conclude,

Hic finis Priami.

*Yours assured, though there be
no assurance amongst men :*

Tho : Gainsford.



*Non opus est digitis, per
quos arcana loquaris?*

Errata: pag: 5. lin: 4. read tracted.

Pag: 10. m. read loose. p:13. l: 24. read sturd. p, 17. l. 6. r. even. fol. 19.
l. 15. r. sorer. f. 26. l. 5. r. adornation. f. 27. l. 7. r. country life. f. 30. l. 7. r. god
p. 31. l. 26. r. fiue. p. 34. l. 2. besides, for so. p. 34. l. 33. r. stake. p. 35. l. 16. r. work.
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tering. f. 46. l. 26. r. grow. l. 32. r. Lords fauor. p. 47. l. 30. r. hold vp. p. 50. l. 11. r.
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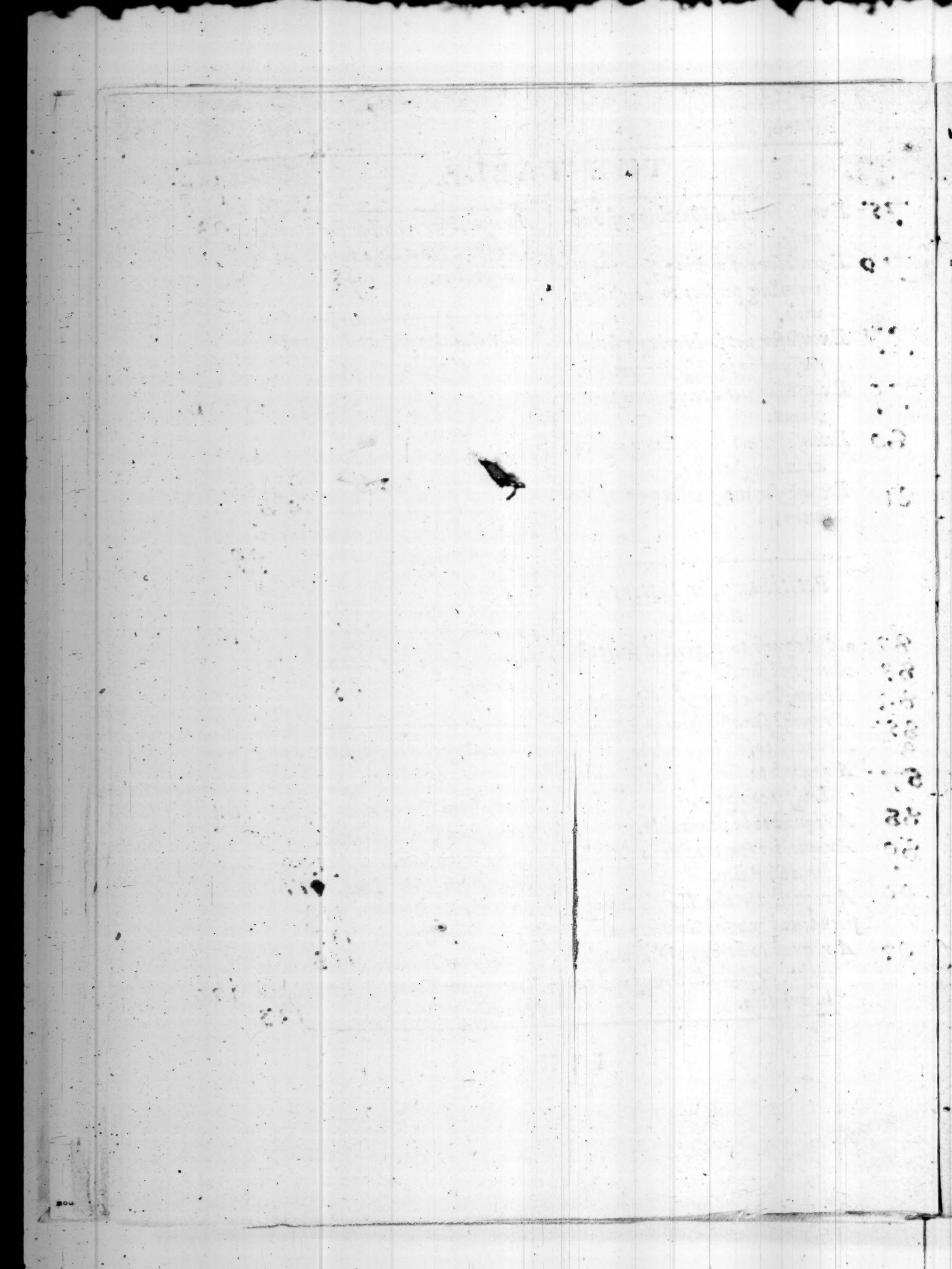
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A M O R O V S L E T T E R S

To the only Life of his desires.

Sweete Soule? What meane you to do with me? or what thinke you I shall doe with my selfe; considering your vertues, which I teareme excellencies haue beene Adamants of my feruentnesse, and I erected my building vpon so good a foundation, that you haue compared the *Sympathy* of our loues, to well tuned Musick. From whence comes then this retractio? or how can you be so cruell to terrifie me with suspition? Oh doe not thinke that I haue praised those eyes, which my supposes, in absence, imagine to refle&t a very Sunlike lustre? that I haue doted on that fauor and comelinesse, which in the contemplation did euer transport me beyond my selfe? that I haue bene enamored on your beauty, which in the gazing hath ouercome mee with admiration? that I haue beeene rauished with those kisses, which seemed an infused life to my distracted heart? that I haue bene amazed on that face, which me thought was a very mappe of louelinesse, and all in vaine? as though I could passe ouer the remembrance of my contentment with slightnesse, and frame my selfe to beleuee contraries. No no, (*Sweete soule*) I shall not, may not, nor cannot. For it is not the fathers frownes, nor the brothers storming, that I respect, but your sadnessse and teares, your sorrows and complaints, which me thinks resemble spots disgratiouly

*The louer is
affraide to
lose his be-
loved.*

tiously chancing to pure linnen: be therfore the patterne of your selfe: Let vertue remaine vnmaimed: continue constant & well satisfied: & for my part, what euer goodnes may arise frō our allowable proceedings, I will iustifie. To be plaine, let the assurance of your desires warrant my hopes, remoue my ielousie, and I will lose this life, rather then thus hazard the life of my life. But I hope I haue encountered with an vnderstanding woman, and there shall need no such expostulation. Nay I am assu-
red I haue cast my selfe into the lap of vertue, which like the square Die being euery way throwne standeth upright, so that if there should be any blockes in the course of our iustifiable desires; either a strong arme of policy shall tumble them aside, or a noble resolution spurne them away in scorne: in which assurance I will rather breathe with ioy, then pant for feare; and at last proclaime to the world, there bee women will remember their vowes, and can be loyall in spight of contradiction or calumination.

Your afflicted friend.

To his fulnesse of Contentment.

*The Louer
distracted
with feare
of hazzarding his de-
sire.*

MY enely Beloued, I had not thought loue, especially in such youth, had bin capable of moderation, that already you can be contented to dispute the matter with reason, and to consent to the peeuiish restraint of ill concluding arguments; which some eniuious tongue hath whispered vnto you. Oh that our first meeting had receiued this restraint: then with small grieve I might haue ouer passed my feare: or had the fire bene kindled with artificiall degrees, I might haue preuented the flaming outright. But now when I am in the violence of my speed, when the heart burneth with passion, when my very life dependeth on the hope of your assent, and that,

in

in a manner, you resolued my cure and redresse, to stand at a stay, to dispute the matter, to find cause of distafting, worketh in me impatience, so that I know not how to demeane my selfe. Oh, do not slightly passe ouer these things, or with an vnkindly grauity censure my proceedings. Remember I haue, will, and must loue; and what cannot or dare not loue effect? Is there a suspition of prodigality? loue wil be a shepheard, nay a flauie. Is there a mistrust of incontinency? loue will settle desire, and quite extinguish all flames of vniust concupisence. Is there a breaking out offolly? loue worketh discretion, & reformeth abuses. Is there a feare of want? loue hath no want, and contriueth impossibilities. Is there a doubt of any thing else? loue attaineth anything else, and facilitateth any difficulty. Alas, what could I not say to pleade for my selfe? what would I not say, nay what would I not doe to please my selfe, especially when such louelinesse enamoreth? Do not therfore beleue: faith and honesty bids you not beleue: my selfe bids you not beleue these flanderous enemies of affection, these brokers of misreports: for I protest you shall finde it otherwise, and they in the disceptation proue ashamed of wronging the innocent. Let me therefore come to appease them, let mee come to satisfie you, let me come to iustifie my selfe: nay let me come to die quickly or liue happily: for this is intollerable, and I cannot credit my feares, nor beleue these tormenting apparitions.

Your liuing dying friend.

To the onely hope of his Fortunes. Mrs. B.

Mr Soules life, When I beheld you first, me thought nature determined to open a storchouse and shew vs some excellent workmanship, and so as a man long-

Loue occasioned through a vniuity of inward vertues and outward comelinesse.

ging for nouelties, I looked and gazed on the same, yea with admiration commended her handiworke: but after I had considered what inward vertues caused the motion of this outward wborth, and louelineffe, I could not but compare it to a rich casket, containing within it more richer iewels: so that you must not wonder at my likeing the same; but rather maintaine the cause of my iudgement, for bestowing it selfe on so wel deseruing a subiect: nor is this flattery or idle discourse, but iustice in yours, and necessarie in my case: for as you haue inflamed mine affection, so there must be vsed som meanes of satisfactiō. Thus requesting you to consider me, as a man, whose thoughts, words, actions, life, soule, and all attend you, not darinng to behold the Sun of the world, till they receiue comfort from the Sunne of your fauours, I remaine

*The honourer of your match-
lesse perfection.*

To her chiefeſt Contentment.

*The Louer
findeth fault
with neglect
of titles.*

MY Loue and Ioy, I haue read, that the Emperours of Rome did commonly looke on the date and superscription of their Letters; whereat, if they were distasted they rejected the same, and would not ouer-view them further: but yet I will not serue you so by taking such state and imitation vpon mee; but impute your neglect of our couenant concerning reciprocall titles, to a gentle triall of my simplicitie and loue; withall, intreating henceforward, not to let forgetfulnes, or contempt put in a finger, left by intrusion or sufferance it bring in a hand, and so the whole body. For why should you giue me any cause of suspition, when a warrant is sealed of our happiness; or assume to your selfe a counterfeit

libertie

libertie of trying my patience, when you know I will pul out mine owne heart, before it shall entertain a thought of alteration? Therefore I pray you remember your selfe, and those vowes you haue conttacted; remember mee, and that affection you haue inflamed; remember vertue, and that goodnesse which you haue commended; and remember loue with that honesty you haue professed: and so I expect, that as you are my chiefeſt content, your next Letter ſhal confirme me your choifeſt delight.

None but yours.

To the Honourable Lady, T.G.

HONORABLE, and worthy bencoured Lady: Al-
though fame hath ſet open the enclosure of your
praises, whereby Honour and Vertue remaine expoſed
to the world, as you ſee a rich Diamond augmented in
his luſtre by the cunning of the workeſman: yet is miſfor-
tune ſo tyrannous vnto me, that I am neceſſited to an
vntimely baniſhment, even when there appeared life in
your patronage, and delight in your louelincſſe: ſo that
now to ſequeſter my ſelfe is an abſolute walking in dark-
neſſe, and a miſerable ſlaggering without ſupportation.
Yet againe, when I conſider, with whom I haue encoun-
tered, and that I am falne into the hands of a generous
ſpirit, and heroicke werthinesſe; I conceiue great plea-
ſure in my conſidence, and I begin to grow proud, that
I may publish your vertue, I dare ſay loyall Conſancie.
Be therefore then your ſelfe great *Lady*: and let the o-
pinion I conceiue of my fortunes, encourage my ende-
uer, that al the actions my industry ſhal vndertake may
receiue life frō the beams of your name. Then though I
might raife my glory equal with the Sun I would not faile

*Lone com-
plaineth of ſe-
queſtration.*

to lay it prostrate to your high acceptatiō: & so I request you giue me leaue to diuulge to the world, that the sphere, in which I moue, is gouerned by your influence: that I cannot liue without your fauour; that I will not loue, except you vouchsafe it; that I haue nō other Lady, but your selfe; no other world then the place of your residence. And thus I bid you fare as vvell as vvishes can enlarge, leauing my soule in your tuition: vwhich if you preserue for her ovne, yours, or my sake; Oh hovv happy shall I bee, and vwith glad tidings vvill it returne vnto me, and (I hope) command me to returne vnto you: and so I rest in the best expectation, and *bascia la honorata manu.*

Your Honors deuoted.

To the Honorable and his highly respected Lady, B. S.

*Loue cannot
indure a ri-
ual or com-
petitor.*

Right honorable Lady, I cannot deny but a Diamond is a pretious stone, though imbased in lead: but excellently polished, and set out to the best becomming, it must needs constraine a farther praise and admiration: so fareth it vwith Vertue, vwhich no question is allovvable in the meanest persons: but vwhen there is a vning of many graces, as beauty, generous minde, noble birth, settled vvisedome, affable demeanour, and such like; it not onely approacheth absolute perfection, but bindeth vs to high and strict obseruation: of all vwhich I must & dare publish you a instāce, so that it is the pride of my life to iustifie my soules desire to serue you; and the glory of my bondage, that I am made seruile to such vvorthiness: command therefore (*great Lady*) but vwith all command me to loue; for I cannot lieue except I loue; nor care to die so I may loue you onely, vwho are vvorthy of all loue. Yet my dearest happinesse, I beseech you mi-
stake me not; for hovvsoeuer I haue subiected my selfe, I

(like

(like a Soneraigne) can indure no cōpetitor: & although it cannot be chosen, but the very starres ouervvatch you, and therefore many eyes on earth looke to vward you, & many hearts vvish you vvel; yet shall I neuer endure anothers claime, much lesse a daring hand to take you in possession: be therefore thus circumspect for humanities sake; not betray your vertue to corruption, nor my pcore valor to inevitable danger. For if you frustrate my hopes either by vvillingnesse or vwantonnesse, I renounce the vworld, all vvomen, and my selfe. But if the high strongest arme stretch it selfe to vward you vvith inhumanity, or compulsion; my rest is vp to make it shrinke backe again, or cut it off in the extension. *Tours in death it selfe.*

To the Noble and truely vertuous Lady, F.M.

Most worthy Lady had not my loue receiued life from the breathing heate issuing from your gracious acceptation; it might vwell haue recoyled vvith the first violent reiection, and taken out a nevv lesson of restraint, vvith a ciuill acknowledging your greatnessse, and confessing that the starres are onely to be looked vpon vvith an abasing reuerence; but you knovv, (and none but you shall knovv) that vhen I made my selfe a stop, as afraide to go further then either my strength or policie could direct me, a louely hand tooke me by the arm, and drevv me along to the height of my happinessse, wherein I vvil sit as glorious, as the Sunne in his strength, & in despite of maligne circūstances, or maleuolent aspects, embrace my fortune vvith gladnesse. Therefore I pray you desist frō questioning my presumptuous attēpt, or affrighting me vvith your greatness, or tormenting me vvith discouery, or murthering me vvith suspition, or sending me to hell vvith terror of your losse. For I dare, & vwill thus an-

*Love will
hardly bee
supprest, af-
ter it hath
taken firme
rooting.*

swer euery particular. Concerning my presumption, It is easier to reach at a high bough then to stoop to a low straw; it is glorious to be busied in honourable designes: and he is made famous in the attempt, though he faile in the conquest. It is a worthy resolution to aime at a wel deseruing obiect: and how euer the hazzard be, there is a shew of a generous spirit; sith fortune and loue are painted blind in their portraitures. Concerning your greatnessse, we haue many instances of *Queenes* and *Princes* pulling vp inferior persons to honour: nor is loue tyed to such lawes of priuacy; but being naked, himselfe shewes plainly, that flesh and blood lies as naked to the incursions of his passions in high and lowe: the lowe not ouer-awed with titular dignities, or outward shows; nor the preheminence of the hie priuiledged frō amorous affecting the lowe. For my selfe, I am in blood generous, and in affection fully contracted to loyalty: concerning discouery, who shall betray vs but our selues? nay, who dare whisper against vs but iealousie? and in that lies the secret of our prosperitie. For what is difficult to get, is carefully preserued; and where there is danger in the aduenture, there is sweetnesse, and ioy exceeding other ioyes, when the perill is ouerpassed: therefore be you reposed, and let me bustle with mischance; for I am resolued to loue you against all ouerwatchings. Concerning suspition, Oh giue not wings to my feares, that some other will intrude and participate my immunitiess; or doe you it onely to make a triall of my spirit? Beleeue it; before I will consent to such basenesse, I will pray for *Sampsons* strength to pull downe the house on all our heads together. And concerning your losse, Oh there is death in the verie sound, and it cannot bee raised out of any other circle, then envy at my prosperitie, or your owne desire of a more worthy seruant, whereat I

am

am now strucke silent: and vnlesse you confidently resolute me what to trust vnto, I will not liue to write you another Letter.

Yours, not to liue without you.

To her best choyce, C.D.

*M*yr loues Pride, Although I am enformed, that by your Loue desires liberall praises of me, some quicke apprehension dis- secrecie, not couered your liking, yet cannot I take it so ill, as to draw ouerliberall you within the compasse of reprehension, because I would discoueries. not slacke the first vehemency, wherein loue hath nobly displayed his colours on all sides. Let vs therefore continue resolute; and if by some small absence we sometimes slacke the burning of these fires, shall it not resemble a Smiths forge, who casteth water on his coales to strengthen the heate, and make the flaine more glorious? Yet by way of caution, it is not alwaies befitting to speake what wee thinke, nor report what wee know, lest a captious care mistake our discourse, and a passionate heart set the tong at randome. As for our selues, there hath bene made a reciprocall trial: & for my owne part, as you expect constancy in me, I request secrecy in you, and so am resolued to loue you, and none but you, while I am warme in my hearts blood.

Yours in the midst of feare.

To his vertuous and dearely beloued, M.A.

*S*weet Heart, What a strange countermād did you send *True loue* is me, not to visite you, because your late sickenesse *not tyed to* had cast a defiance in beauties face, as if my liking depen- *outward* ded on outward shewes! Why, good Soule? when reason *beautie.* had won the field of passion, I loued a vertuous *Cassandra,*

not a faire *Hellen*; a noble spirit, not an outward feature; a constant resolution, not a fading comelinesse: and yet I am perswaded no disaster whatsoeuer can haue power to controwle thy beauty or bountie; onely time excepted, which must weare vs out with death, and then shall our soules welcome a perpetuitie: therefore I pray thee let me come, if it be but to shew my selfe a man a louer of vertue, and maintainer of all constant and honest resolutions.

Yours euer resolued.

To the Mistresse of his thoughts, F.D.

*Ione is af-
fraid to looke
bis content-
ment.*

MY Loue and life, I hope it is not come to that passe, that you can bee contented to dispute the matter with discretion, as though it lay in your choice, which way to trauell to the palace of Felicitie; as though wisedome had taught you to wipe away the forces of Fancie, with a commanding hand; as though some diuine inspiration had forewarned you of ensuing mishaps. For sure no obiection can now be made, which long since receiued not a foile in the encounter; therfore I pray you (if my fortunes be so bad, that I must reuiue your memory) goe to that grove where we called the trees to witnesse, and sware by the pleasant shade, that nothing but the fruite of enioying one another, should coole the fiers of loue, and there recount the words wee counterchanged, the vowes we contracted, the teares wee drunke vp from each others faces. But I can say no more, vnlesse I shall bee inforced to exclaime. I am vnworthy to liue; because my dearest life supposeth me vnworthy to loue, or be beloued: which if it bee but in shew; as you breake the seales of these Letters, you breake the strings of my heart.

Yours dying in constancie.

*To his best beloued and more then much
respected Mrs. G.Z.*

VOrthily beloued, These pretty crosses and contradictions make Loue the sweeter, and strengthen Fancie the more, when the vaile of iealousie is taken away, and an honest heart hath taught a stroug arme the cunning to turne aside all obstacles of our delight: yet beeue me, it was a miserable temptation, for you to sweare my falsehood, and lay the weight of disloyaltie on the brest of an honest man. especially to raise your suspition, from so vnworthy a person, and degenerating a cause, when there was no motiue to startle my resolutions, nor thought to disparage your worth. Say the course of the Danse brought mee with her to a turning change, and that afterward I commended her graces and comelinesse, I could doe no lesse out of courtship and good manner: but to say that either proceeded from ambrous passion, is to be ouer passionat, & vnwarrantable by reason, or laws of loue. Besides, some tongues haue traduced her for a wanton: and then is beauty as ill bestowed, as value in a prophane swaggerer: so that me thinks you should rather haue challenged any other for deprauing me in this kind, then beene challenger your selfe to raise a greater disease. But I hope you are now satisfied, as no such misprision shall euer endanger the vnitie of our loues againe.

Yours fearefully louing.

*A little ie-
alousie sea-
neth true loue*

To the worthiest of all my friends..

Myr other selfe, You haue commanded me to write, and I durst not but obey: nay, you haue prescribed the method, and therefore I wil not alter the maner: but make

*A letter de-
scribing true
friendship.*

you beleeue I haue apprehended your wil, and would thus satisfie your desire. True friendship is an vndissimuled consent of our affection towards one another, and a very transportation of two hearts into one body; so that two friends in a manner loue with one minde, speake with one tongue, execute with one hand, liue with one life, and sometimes die with one death. Amongst friends must be no contradiction, no disproportion of conditions, no dissimilitude in manners, nor talke of mine and thine. Doth hee sorrow? thou must mourne: doth hee rejoyce? thou must not repine: doth hee complaine? thou must not accuse: doth hee demaund? thou must not denie: doth hee want? thou must not murinure: doth hee contrive? thou must practise: doth hee desire? thou must not reproue. For though priuate thoughts are proper to our selues, yet the fortunes, goods, persons, and estate of friends, are to remaine in a pleasant communilitie: vpon this, some Philosophers haue maintained, that one man can haue but one friend; framing thus an argument, *A contrariis*. If there be danger in many enemies, by reason of the many and vncertaine courses to reuenge: there is trouble in many friends, by occasion of diuisions in consent. According to the opinion of *Aeschines*, there was no such griefe as to be diuided from him we did loue. For looke what properties loue ever contained, were in friendshipe maintained: and because loue could not receiue her estimation frō vntoward liberty to change; friendship hath bene denied her desires to alter. *Tully*, the light of eloquēce, had friendship in such account, that he preferd it before kindred, because in the dissolution of loue, the name of a kinsman remained, but in the priuation of friendship all titles and goodnes ended. If then with these properties you can bear with my imperfections, I with these conditions will tolerate your defects, and so shall this name of friendship passe and repasse reciprocally between vs. Yours vnseparable.

To his highly esteemed.

Worthy Sir, Whereas you complaine of my slow- *A letter of
nesse in visiting you, and slacknes in writing: con- friendly pre-
cerning your selfe, I am determined to remaine with the cepts.*
same faith and order I euer accustomed; & touching those
latter motiues, I will come as neare your satisfaction as I
can in this slender discouery. Understand me then, that my
poore experience would open the mystery of this know-
ledge vnto you: that fortune, which we so often prophane-
ly remember, is no way to bee overcome but with Vertue:
that Vertue is neuer so well to be entertained, as in youth:
that youth is but some speciall flower in a curious garden,
kept by extraordinary diligence, till an vntimely blast pe-
rish the stalke, and impouerish the beauty: that beautie
is like a white wall curiously trimmed, which if an enui-
ous hand do besprinkle with a few vncleane droppes, a
present alteration daunteth the company: that compa-
ny is like a strange net catching all fish, vnlesse they slip
into some vnowne nookes, or auoide the danger by
other cunning: that cunning is like holding the Woolfe
by the eare, which if you wrest hard, you are bitten; if you
let go, you are in perill of life: that life is like a strong
timbred tree, which at the maisters appointment is cut
downe in a small time: that time is resembled to sweete
smelling flowers, which must be staid to please the sense,
and stilled to heale the body, or else they will bee faire to
the eye, and as vnpofitable as ill disposed friends: that
friends are like childrens sports, who for a new Counter
refuse an old Angell, and to go to a strange nurse, forsake
the nearest kindred: and that kindred are like *Tantalus* ap-
ples, which keepe their shew till they be touched; but once
pressed, crumble to powder.

These be principles to my grieve experienced, and may without offence be to others good embraced; not that I go about to draw you into suspition: but because I would preserue your remembrance toward me, whereby I must needs be satisfied, if you be not displeased.

Yours as I haue professed.

To his esteemed friend, C.N.

*The proper-
ties of true
friendship.* **S**IR, Had not our friendshipp receiued reciprocal strength from true vertue, and worthy conuersation; I could slightly haue passed ouer your last deniall of trifles, and quietly gathered the raines of discretion to restraine the forwardnesse of impudency or combersomnesse: but when I remembred our combination, and with what conditions we contracted a league, especially the nature and propertie of friendship, me thought there was a pleasure to name you so, and a comfort to finde you so: therefore from henceforth let vs vnderstand one another better; either firmly to maintaine the cause of kindnes, or lightly to leaue it vnder the colours of courtesie. For the best Philosophers haue chained loue and friendshipp with e- quall goodnessse, so that as loue can endure no competition, friendship must abide no community: as loue can haue but one fauorite; friendship should admit but of one companion: as loue pardoneth, friendship forbeareth; as loue commandeth all, friendship is denied nothing: as loue entreth when he list, friendship doth so vncowntrowled: as loue triumpheth ouer the heart and affection, friendship raigneth ouer body & goods: no excuses, no drawings backe, no contracted brow, no delaies, no hiding the head, no daintinessse, or absurd ceremonies; but a happy *Sympathy* to strengthen goodwill, and an absolute power to command, and readines to obey one other. If then

then with these conditions , you can bee contented to march arme in arme to the house of contentment, I am yours as you mine; and both to shew the world an example of happy imitation.

Yours indissoluble.

To his assured friend, F. L.

SIR, To craue pardon were to submit , and more then <sup>The proper-
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friendship.</sup> you looke for : obstinately to offend were iniurious to you, and not befitting a Gentleman. To auoyd therefore the one, and to eschew the other: For not writing, imagin want of skill : for not comming , suppose my businesse to hinder me : for not sending , thinke I could not conveniently: thus you see I am willing to be excused, where I am loth to be accused ; & considering I loue you better then other men, I would not distast you if it were possible: especially because I haue tyed my selfe to true obseruation, as you haue professed a happy contract of kindnesse. In hope or rather assurance hereof , I pray you present my seruice to that louely party , whom I compared at our last meeting to a rich Diamond orderly inameled , and extraordinarily set out to the best grace ; and all to shew the cunning of the workeman : so that if my fortune could but conduce me to the way of entertainment , it would sure exceed the worlds happines , and I durst search the whole earth for *AEsculapius* bones to restore her eyes : but if you play the truant with me to shew her this letter , giue me leaue to be my owne interpeter, and let not your excellent wits triumph ouer my simplicitie.

Euer your owne.

To

To her tried and trusty friend.

*Necessitie
causeth im-
portunitie.*

VOrthy Sir, Hauing relied on your noble promises, and knowing my selfe on a sure and honest ground, concerning the secrets of my discontents, I rested some way satisfied in the expectation of the performance; and thought my selfe happy in this vnhappinesse, that I had falne into the hands of so noble a Gentleman: so that if there were no more in it, then loue and assurance of your selfe, I would haue bene silent, till your owne leisure had serued you rightly to consider mee. But necessities knocking so hard and so fast, and conspiring with the suddennesse of time against my patience and quiet, I am enforced to ouerpasse all limits, and step to an earnest importunitie, to request both your confidence of my honestie in this busynesse, and suppliment to keepe mee out of the hand of misery and despaire. This humanity challenges at your hand, this occasion compelleth mee to request: so that if I find you no lesse then I hope, nor no worse then I deserue, we shall both be pleased; and I haue cause to proclaime your worth euen to my best friends: and thus I haue cast my selfe downe into the scale of equall consideration; take vp then an vpright hand, and peize me accordingly: but withall, I pray you let no indirect strength turne the beame aside. For I haue euer loued you truly, and therefore rely on your friendship at this time absolutely.

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ance and un-
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out once looking backe to see, wherefore I am despised, & why, without offending, debarred from the same. But because I must and will acknowledge it, and in a maner confess my selfe all darkenesse without it, yea readie to bee plunged into euery durty bogge & irrecouerable danger: I humbly beseech you therfore, either to extend a gracious hand to stay a fainting soule from sinking, or giue mee leaue to blame my misfortune, that hath thus subiected mee to the violence of so dangerous displeasure; whereby if you be not the more noble, discontinuance shall make me worse, then water spilt out of a vessell neuer to be taken vp againe. For what a terror is this? nay, how vnexcusable, for my selfe to haue you in towne, and I not to visite you, or so much as once to bee thought vpon? yet it may be, this eternall horror of gentle minds (shame and wants) haue onely stirred vp iealousie to afflict me without cause; considering you will be still your selfe, and loue me for being honest, and endeououring to make vertue proud, that pouertie cannot abase her: In which hope I send you my true and fafhfull heart, howeuer I remaine most miserable in the feare of your losse.

Yours in true friendship.

To his Honourable friend, Sir. T.B.

Vorthy Sir, In those times, when *Dracon* the tyrant of the East, aduanced himselfe to the height of soueraignty, ingratitudo and iniustice were punished with death: so that if he vnderwent the imputation of cruelty, it was not for satiating a blood-thirsty-minde, but reuenging the negle^ct of his statutes: now if examples endure longer then precepts, had not wee neede in these corrupt times to stand on a guard of circumspection, not to vilipend vertue lesse then the heathen, nor practise impietie worse.

*Ingratitudo
is not besuiring
a gentleman.*

worse then idolaters ; and if they thought ingratitude worthy of death; I hope we shall (at least) suppose it vnbefiting a Gentleman. Wherfore without further complement, or larger circumstances for those many fauours, wherewith your plentifull hand hath cuen laden me; I open the exchecquier of the poore, and thanke you with a publike acknowledgement of the same. Yet giue me leaue (considering mischances are multiplyed vpon me) to resemble my selfe to a man tumbling downe a staires, who neuer leaues falling, till he come to the bottome. And concerning your last promise vnperformed, how can I be compared better then to a man lying faint and wounded on the ground, whom some courteous hand seemeth to aduance, but lifting him vp halfe way, letteth goe his hold, and so he falleth backe againe to his sore hurt? therefore, good Sir, either giue my hope fuller wings, that it may take a higher flight of security, or let me die at once, to auoide an euerliuing misery: and this I vrge the rather, because in cases of vntoward distresse, there is courtesie in quicke dispatch; as in the benefits of friendship there is a double pleasure in the timeliness, and orderly disposing offauour. Now my request is, if any vngentle hand hath cast durt into the pure streme of your loue; Oh, let it not so remaine, but either cleanse it your selfe, or giue me leaue to pull it out, what danger soeuer I incurre: and if my fortune be so malignant, that a flauish report hath echoed against my peace, Oh, let me know the particulars, and answere for my selfe accordingly. And thus assuring my selfe, that I shall fall into the hands of iudgement, with quicke apprehension, I leaue all to fauourable construction, and commit you to his hands, who can aduance you to the height of your desire, and merit of your woorth.

Post scriptum, Gratia ab officio, quod mora tardat, abest.
Your thankefull friend.

To his much esteemed Friend, C.G.

*I am in out of
good manners
must answer
letters howe-
ver they
prove unsa-
uory in the
acceptation.*

SIR, I am sorry that my letters were either vnsauory for the matter, or tedious for the length, considering that out of the rules of ciuitie I was to answer yours, and the necessitie of my businesse to importune further, then you thought good manners. But such is the misery of wants; and poore men are resembled to ruinous walles, which euery man shunneth for feare of falling vpon them; otherwise I could excuse my selfe many waies. First, to auoide idlenesse, wherein the *Persians* were so obseruant, that they would rather whittle stickes, or rip the seames of their coate, and sewe them vp againe. Secondly, to eschew ingratitude, which is a vice vnbefitting a generous minde of all other. Next, to exercise my vnderstanding; for to write to so delicate a iudgement, and apprehensiue a wit, craueth study and a carefull foresight: then, to better my knowledge: For if I doe well, your commendation can confirme me; if I fall into errors, your wisedome can reforme and restraine me. Fifthly, to make you beleue, there is some good thing in me allowable and iustifiable, and therefore worthy of a small regard, as noble Sir *Philip Sydney* was wont to say, Let vs loue him for one good qualitie; for a great many haue none at all, and no man hath all. Lastly, to know what to trust vnto; for to hope for a thing which commeth not, and to loue them that care not for vs, be two of the liuing deaths in this world. Therefore, *Good Sir*, let me not pleade in vaine, that pleade so truely, and vrge these reasons, rather to know how your loue shall bee enlarged, then my vaineglory published: and if you please to second my enterprise, I shall with a further cheerefulness proceede in my businesse; if not, as good fall at first, and all at once, as liue in expectation of

more

more mischiefe, and greater troubles. Thus I bid you farewell, and to fare better then I can fare, vnlesse you wish me well.

Yours, as a louer of Vertue.

To her newly displeased Friend, M.I.

Good Sir, How commeth it to passe, that you draw my *Jealousie* loue and modesty in question, for my ciuill enterta- *Should not be*
ning of a Gentleman last night, as thogh I could do lesse, *Accorde with*
then affoord him a salutation, and performed too much in *out cause.*
continuing our morall discourse? Beleeue me, I am not ignorant, that loue is seasoned with a little iealousie, but beeing out of *Italie*, grow proud of *Englands libertie*, where the practices of humanitie teach vs the true vse of cōuersation. So that an vncorrupted heart is Canon-proof against a flanderous tongue, but a wanton minde will turne vertuous sentences to laciuousnesse: if then you were well perswaded of my vertue; to put all out of doubt, there passed not one word, which a diuine might not haue bene partaker of; otherwise bee resolued, that if I had not bene limited with the bands of respecting you, I would haue bene tyed to the conditions concerning my selfe, and neither haue giuen eare to immodest parlee, nor way to any vndecencies: and so if you are satisfied, I am pleased. But from henceforth bee more confident of my worth, and lesse suspiciois of my loyaltie.

Yours, if you wrong her net.

To her best resolued friend, F. G.

*The difference
betwenee a
willing and
compulsed
absence.*

Mr true and worthy friend, Your late discourse concerning absence and iealousie, as if they were rather inflamers, then extinguishers of loue, hath almost startled my resolutions concerning the negatiue: that is, whereas I held an opinion that iealousie & absence were rather deficiencies in themselues, and merely obstacles to continuing kindnesse, I am now perswaded, they may so march in the army of passions, as to haue the Vauntgard in the encounter of affection: but withall I haue learnd so much cunning in morality, as thus to distinguish betwenee their abuses. Concerning absence, there is a difference in that which is constrainyd, and that which is voluntary. For there may be honourable causes of the one, when the other at (the best) is but an vntoward triall of one another, as imployment in martiall affaires, legation to forraine Princes, trauell to enrich experience, necessitie of trafficke and such like: to all which no worthy party beloued, but will affoord a helping hand, and admit of hope of returne; patience to endure, and wisedome to harken after his endeouours: but voluntary absence, if it could bee veiled vnder the adulterate shew of trials, hath so many ill companions, that it can neither doe well it selfe, nor bring them to any good order. For commonly, it is accompanied with carelesnesse, slacknesse in obseruation, suspition, feare of idle humours, vnkindnesse; and, at last, meets with vtter obliuion, with diuers of that sort: and what shall the party beloued conceite, if she first demand reasons of his departure, and after finde a breach of vowes for his returne? so that alledge what philosophicall infereunce you may, and guild it ouer with the imposturing Art of Oratory: I absolutely conclude, that howeuer pleasure is the stronger in his

his rarity; loue, true, honest, and perfect loue is no way beholding to a wilfull absence. Touching iealousie, I confess I haue read of a holy-day in hell, when loue and iealousie were marryed together: but howeuer they feasted for that day, I am sure, all the time after they were turmoyled with despight: For except a great discretion ouermaster suspition; feare, rage, madnesse, watchings, disquiet, abstaining from meate and rest, torment of minde, and vntoward distractions accōpany vs, especially if there be the least cause giuen of the breach of vowes. Oh then, loue prooues like a beautiful glasse, which once broken, can neuer be cemented againe: yet I confess, there may bee a ciuill emulation concerning a Riuals worthinesse, and honest feare to hazard the thing vnobtained: but once, wiued and contracted vnseparable, there can be no man iealous, but vpon his wiues disloyalty; and she that giues the occasion, must aduenture her honour. I will not therefore haue the marryed man iealous; and would tye the amorous suiter within certaine bounds, lest by transcending, he transshape his owne discretion into fury, and quarrelsome humours, of which, a well disposed Gentlewoman would, nor should be any way guilty: and so, till I heare further, I leauue what you haue heard, to a fauourable construction.

Yours wherefoeuer.

To the worthie and Noble L.B.

Mr best Lady, I wold not now proue recreant to my former constancy, considering I haue not only plaide the wanton with affliction; but haue had you a looker on to my great encouragement: yet some vnkinde feare begins now to stagger my resolution, because I finde a falling away amongst your selues, like loose earth from a maine banke; and am resolued that this banishment will vtterly

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halfe.*

dis-

disioynt the frame of our long acquaintance, and at last pull in peeces the bands of true friendship: else how can it be, that I am vnworthy the remembrance? and who would haue thought I should so long haue passed vnregarded? But this is the corruption of greatnesse, either you thinke to make vs slaues by obseruation, or dare not bee your selues vertuous, or feare of cōbersomnes: as for friendship, kindnesse, loue, faith, loyalty, respect, and generous dispositions: they are but voyces and smoake, and as you all vse the same, like *Tantalus* Apples, which once touched, turne into cinders, and yet hang with glorious shews to the eye. But will you serue me so indeed? and as the diuell seduced the woman, the womā enticed the man, the man offended his Maker; run arme in arme in the race of contempt, and at last triumph in my deiection? Why, doe a Gods name; and then shall you see mee smile in distresse, and reach at the helpe of all helpes out of heauen it selfe: yet for al this, I pray you do not mistake me, but rather impute all to the distraction of my owne feares, then your defects: for I haue euer loued your worth, and while I liue, will thinke you worthy to bee beloued: so that if amongst your other vertues, you can pardon this vnsauorinessse, I shall receiue a new life, and with a further chearefulnessse present my duty once againe vnto you.

Yours, if you proue worthy.

To his much esteemed Mrs.P.

*A good wife
eimended &
compared to
a ship at sea.*

Mistresse, Me thinkes I behold you like a goodly ship at sea; so that, I which am a stander on the shore, must needs be afraide, when I consider the danger of boisterous winds and raging billowes; the perill of the shlfes and sands; the terror of rockes and shores; the inconueniences of harbors and long voyages, and the hazzard of in-counters

counters with pirates and men of warre. Yet againe, when I remember the excellent workmanship in your contri-
ving, the strength of your building, the comelines of your
raising vp, the delicacie of your trimming, and aboue all,
the cunning and experience of your Pilot and steersman,
I am somewhat pacified, and had rather expose you to
the glory of famous voyages, then see you lie still in safe
harbour, where time and many inconueniencies shall
weare out your keele, and obscure your beautie: therefore
go foorth a Gods name, and let me see you vnder saile.
For the wifest of men, hath compared a good wife to a
ship at sea, which bringeth her food from a farre; and so I
make no doubt you will esteeme your selfe, and not aduen-
ter abroade without care, order, and good prouision. In
which hope, I leaue you to the fortune of the world, and
send my good wishes after you, to fill your sailes with the
best winde, and bring you home againe with the fulnesse
of prosperitie.

Tours, and Vertues.

To his well aduised Friend, Mrs. H.

Good Mistresse, Obedience is better then sacrifice; and
therefore doe I send you these triuiall letters accord-
ing to your command imposed, requesting you not to
be too quicke in apprehending any thing amisse, nor stu-
pide in not conceiuing what belongs to your portion:
For I protest, I meane to say nothing, to draw your wor-
thinesse in question; nor will leaue out any thing, which
may manifest my good opinion of you. I then must begin
with a certaine custome of the Schoolemaisters in *La-
cedemon*, who at the first admittance of their schol-
lers, brought them a glasse to looke in: If they were
faire and comely, they then aduised them to take heede,
that the inward vertues answered the outward louclinesse;

*A friend de-
sireth a Gens-
tewoman to
unite the in-
ward vertues
of the mind to
outward loue-
linesse.*

D other,

otherwise they might resemble painted sheaths couering onely wodden swords , so that true beauty and handsomnesse consisted in noble parts, not outward feature. If they were mishapen, or outwardly deformed , to endeuour for the adoration of the minde, the light of vnderstanding, and the load-starre of wisedome, whereby they should see no man except against the first shape : and here may man ouerpasse the imperfections of nature , by extolling the conditions of nurture. Now I hope I shall not neede to apply this to your selfe, because I am assured you look in a glasse euery day; and although you do not with *Narcissus* doate on your owne forme : yet you cannot choose , but be thankefull to nature for so extraordinary benefits con-ferred; and withall, remember, what a happinesse will make you perfect in this world, if you vnite such inward graces, as begin already to take you by the hand , to passe out the meausures of worth and modestie. Go on therefore, go on, that I may liue to say, Yonder goes the wonder of time, and the true example of noblenesse and beautie But I dare not enlarge my wishes, lest I fall into an extasy, and from giuing good counsell to others , crosse mine owne iudgement for not doing as I should my selfe: yet I sweare, if my fortune were worthy the name of a fortune , I durst triumph amongst other masters of earthly contentiments, that you thinke me of deseruing to bee commanded by you, and put me in the Catalogue of your chiefeſt friends. The busynesse you inserted, shall bee dispatched, and the next letters discouer, what I thinke of the choife of a husband, and to what conditions I would tie man and wife, living in a generous libertie.

Yours well aduised.

To

To his dearly beloved friend, M.T.

Good Sir, I well perceiue by your worthy disposition, that obliuion cannot get the mastery of vertue in iudicious and honest friends. For howeuer we are remote in body, you haue iustified your remembrance toward mee, yea continued a good opinion, and strengthened it with a conceit of my vnderstanding somewhat; concerning your retired country, tis so, that some thing must now be said, drawing neare to satisfaction, but especially to discharge the dutie of a friend, and faithfull well-willer. Beleeue it then, that in diuers persons a country life neighboureth contemplation and quietnesse, according as we adapt our selues to the same. For a Gentleman, of any reasonable estate, desiring to free himselfe of citie vanities, continuall resort, extraordinary expences, superfluous diet, curiositie of apparell, and alluring temptation, may so seate himselfe and persecute his passion, as to meet with profite and reposednes, in the countrey: but then his resolution must be, not for any occasion to ouerpasse the limits of his intended expences; because, if hee once step into the vaine-glorious reputation of a housekeeper, a giuer of almes, and desire of salutations from russet coates: his verie Hall will eate vp his Parlour, and hee shall bee drawne in to spend more at a Christmasse, then his vpper chamber in the citie did in a tweluemonth. But for a free spirit, and a liuer onely vpon a stocke, to bee emboldened with the hope of commoditie, and bettering his estate by a husbandly paines-taking, is as farre from expectation, as to feede a hunting horse on the commons, and yet presume to run with him for the best game. For hee that must say to his seruants, Go, and to his men, Doe this, must be a Centurion, who liues vpon an annuall entrade: but hee that is

A gentleman
must take
heed how he
settles himself
in the coun-
try as a far-
mer.

a vine-dresser, must labour and take paines himselfe, yea haue both art and discretion to manage his affaires, that when he sees a barren figge-tree, he may not in a rage goe and cut it downe, or stocke it vp: but prune it, dung it, dig the earth about it, and make triall of another yeere. Besides, for a Gentleman of wirth, to liue in any towne in suspition of a decaied estate, or necessitie to increase himselfe by industry: especially where they doe but seeme better men of eminence, is, as if a man should goe from his vnderstanding friends, who out of civilitie would neither disteeme him, nor reueale his secrets: and proclaime the same in publike, exposing himselfe so to derision. For beeleeue it, howeuer the country man may bid you good morrow, and stubbornly bend his knee, his heart is full within, and at home hee cares not what he murmures against you; except you are in office to controwle him, as a Justice of peace: or in abilitie to pleasure him, as Lord of the Mannor: or incredite to terrifie him, as some officer at Court: or in estimation to master him, as some noble mans man or other; especially, a priuy counsellours. Besides, the seruants will loyter, the Bailiffe will sooth you vp with flattery to deceiue you; the cartell will famish or diminish, the plough will go vntoward, the whole family liue in confusion, and the best by-word shall be for you: a poore Gentleman Farmer. All which considered, I could be contented to see you here again, where you may eate meate with the best, and sort out your pleasures at as easie a rate, as you list.

Your plaine and true Friend.

To his loving and long expected Friend.

Good Sir, I would not haue you play with me, as the Jewes did with *Jeremie* about their going into *Egypt*, asking his opinion, and swearing a conformitie, till his resolution was contrary to their owne mindes, & so they retracted, scorning the Prophets aduice: thus it may beyou expect at my hands to iump with your desires, and please you by way of soothing, and applaud your pretences: surely I onely cast but a doubt, and therefore will thus plainly tell you my opinion. The house and Farme you haue taken, as I vnderstand, is the Mannor house, and hauing many Tenants, you haue as many priuiledges by their seruiceable tenures. Here questionlesse you did verie well: for by this occasion you shall keepe the stubborne man in awe, and confirme the well disposed with securitie: besides, whereas peraduenture you cannot take paines your selfe, or attend the plough in person; the principall point of husbandrie and tricke to winne the game for a meane estate: you shall be sure that the very best husbands will ouer-looke your grounds for you, as glad to spie a fault in them, or come with a tale to pleasure you, euen with offering his seruice to amend it himselfe for you. But withall, is not the house of too great receipt, costly to furnish, chargeable to repaire, dangerous to keepe, and drawing on extraordinarie expences euen for fewell and maintenance? besides, is there not a certaine expectation of extraordinary house-keeping, and entertaining of passengers? Wherein to proceede, it will drinke vppe the profite of the Farme like a Spunge; wherein to drawe backe, will drowne your reputation in vilipending. This is that I would say vnto you, so that if you meeete with discretion,

If a Gentle-
man will be a
Farmer, it is
the best to ob-
tain the prin-
cipall house:
or the credite
of the highest
place in the
towne.

and iudgement in so intricate a busynesse; surely I must applaude your choise for taking the mannor house; but if you chance vpon iollitie, or vaine-glory, determining to thriue, you will take as wrong a course in being a farmer, as I haue done in aduising you against your minde, and desires.

Yours, with good wishes.

*Concerning
the building
and ordryng
a house with
retaining of
seruants.*

To his well aduised friend, S. G.

SIR, When I opened your last letter, and ouerviewed the sentences diuided into interrogatories, I was almost affrighted, as if there had bene a citation sent for me: but after I considered the particulars, and saw they were onely household aduertisements, or (if you will) husbandly questions, for the better setling a man in the possession of contentment: I cheered my selfe, and thought it good manners thus to answer them; wherein, if I pay you in your owne coine, and not once to looke into the treasure house of Oratorie for any rhetoricall amplification, remeber the iustice of my cause, and the low flight of my subiect. But to the purpose: VVhereas you demand, how you should build your house? I answer thus; That though former times esteemed it better to haue a house too litle for a day, then too bigge for a whole yeare, and cared for no conuenience of lodgings, so the hall and kitchin were bigge enough to dresse meate, and entertaine company; yet doe not you so, but discouer a good spirite by the outward fashion of your building, choose a handsome prospect and wholesome scituacion; let your lodgings bee warme and light, for you may darken them at pleasure; your staires easie, and your roomes of entertainment large & delightsome; the out-houses conuenient, the gardens and orch-yards to the So: th: and your owne chambers neere your husband-

husbandrie, yet as farre from annoyance as you may. In a word, let the whole frame discouer your willingnesse to do well, rather then brand you to hereafter memory for couetous and basely disposed; and if you can leauue an estate of a thousand markes behinde you, let the passers by, viewing the house imagin it a 1000. pound a yeare. For so a second good husband & a good family to match in, may raise it in another age, and then followeth a kinde of repining, that my father or grandfather was not well aduised, and esteemed more of money, then the reputation of his family. But, aboue all, take heed you exceed not this proportion, lest either you incurre derision, for beginning a worke you were not able to finish; or leauue the house to emptiness and decay, if your next heire be not sufficient to adorne and furnish it. Whereas you demand what reti-
nue to keepe? I answer, Haue rather one too few, then two too many, & of al other things, take heed to an idle seruāt for corrupting the rest: for I cannot but resemble him to a stinking broad spreading burre, who is not onely bad in it selfe, but hinders the rest of the grasse growing round about it. And concerning outward shew, by that time your Clearke, Coachman, Butler, keeper of your Wardrobe, chiefe Bailiffe, and better sort of husbandmen be instru-
cted the houre of attendance, and haue also an honest care and cunning, cleanly to shift themselues, there may be a sufficient ostentation for a hundred pound a yeare. Wher-
as you demand what fare you should keepe: I answer thus; let not the Sunday so exceed, as there be scarcitie in the weeke following: giue the laborer sufficient, for dainties fill not the belly: allow not euery one a breakefast, nor e-
uery day three meales: haue your meate warm and good, but do not reserue the best dish, till it be starke naught: if a neighbour come in about businesse, let him tarry a Gods name; if he be inuited, set before him, what he hath not

at home; rather haue a litle & fresh, the return a great deale to sinell of the dry larder; and aboue all, let not the end of the table be so forgotten, either to be serued with blowne drinke, stale bread, or refuse meate: (For goers and commers by the dore will looke for that, and better) because such a heart and tongne may sit at your boord, as will repine at his nasty entertainment; and be bold to publish your reproach. Wheras you demand what cattell to keep, I answer thus. For a Gentleman, Oxen are better then Horse, because after any mischance they may be fed for the butcher, and few men of sort would cart for mony, or attend the court with a Teeme: let such doe that, as loue toile and mony, and tast any paines taking with the fauerines of profit: those geldings you keepe, let them be wel & orderly kept: so that if your country must be serued, you haue one in readines: the seruants which ride with you, let them be honest, carefull, and well prouided, and take heed of basenes, as plowing cattell, broken saddles, patcht bootes, vnmatched spurres, a sword without a chape: nay I would not haue the sword and hangers of one fashion, and girdle or dagger of another, with infinit such disparities, and meereley ridiculous nastinessse. Wheras you demand what gouernment to obserue? I answer generally thus: and for particulars, you shall heare more heereafter: Aboue all, remember the Sabbath, and rather feast of any day, then of that: not but that the Sabboath is a continuall feast, but how? for spirituall purposes, not filthy gurum. dice: more then necessity of life, and good vse of conuersation: let no swearer nor prophane person, once or twise admonished, tarry with you: giue good examples by your owne praiers; and rather by gentle exprobration, then filthy vndeuncies reprehend your seruants, but suffer them not to be masters amongst themselues. To conclude, be charitable towards offenders, gentle to inferiors, willing to

to giue, carefull of good neighbours, and remember the
sicke labourer, and fainting soule.

Yours, with a true heart.

To his respected Friend, Mrs. G.

Mr old acquaintance, I vnderstand by your first seruant, *whether a gentlewoman may with her credit let out lodgings for moncy.* that you haue enlarged your minde with your house, determining to lodge ciuill Gentlemen, and to raise a be- nefit from their entertainment: besides, you adde for excuse, want of company, and that your house is ouer-great for your owne family: here is now a subiect of plentifull matter, and in dilating the same, I must needes incurre displeasure on all sides. But there is now no remedy; you haue in a manner enioyned me to deliuer my opinion, & I will be briefe and plaine, according to my skill. I then would with one blow cut off the *Hydraes* head of confu- sion, and ouerthrow all distinction by the negatiue, thus; That a Gentlewoman, whether widow or wife, liuing in the freedome of reputatiō, is not to be seruile in any thing, nor to bedurtie herselfe with the dregges of any couetous- nesse, or sinister practises against her credite. For as it is vnbefitting to a Gentleman to bee guiltie of any seruile crime; so it is vndecent to a Gentlewoman to incurre the hazzard of her honestie by any base inclination. Now what can the best lodging and lodgers maintaine, but the inconueniences depending will quickly ouer-sway the the profite following? For if they be onely men, they must haue seruants, and commers, and goers; the seruants shall bedurty your carpets and couerlets (if the masters them- selves are tied within the circle of respect and civilitie) wipe their bootes and scabberds on your best furnitures, tosse your kitchen, commaund your vtensels, turmoyle

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your house, and vpon the least contradiction burst out into violent and offensive tearmes: and for your selfe at the best, you shall passe with the character of Hostesse, Land-ladie, Sweete heart, or some such inuention. The commers and goers shall bee of all sorts, yea many times Seamsters, Launderers, kinfewomen, and such like, not without some venomous inclination to incontinencie and riot, vnder the handsome greene grasse and colour of businesse, and entertainement. If they bee onely women, I can say no more, but women will bee women, who cannot liue without the company of men; and then if the fire and tow be put together, there must needes be combustion, what glorious shew soever the flame appeare with; or what admirable cunning is vsed in the kindling or extinguishing: so that, hold the ballance of an vpright conscience how you will, you shall not scape the imputatiō of dishonest practises from base calumniation, howeuer the better sort hold their peace to make you an instrument for their pleasures. If they bee men and women, so a doubling of many inconueniencies; there is but onely this excuse affoorded, that Opportunitie is a baude to Corruption, and vncleane persons are now safe, being so conueniently lodged. This is briefly my opinion touching a Gentlewoman that lodgeth for money. But for others that are tradesmen, and must aduance their estates from the gaines of their profession, I dispute not at all, but leaue it as a thing indifferent to my approbation, howeuer I would not haue them lose the benefits of their endeauours, when they may make double vse of them. First, in the rent of their chambers, next, in the encrease of customers for the venting such wares as they expose to sale, wherein their credite lyeth, onely at the state in those customary vsances of swearing,
lip.

lip-labour, and the secrets of their businesse, so that letting their lodgings, may seeme lesse offensive through a cunning ignorance, then many indirect speeches through a customary dissembling.

Yours, well affected.

To his assured friend Mr. S.S.

Good Sir, It was an ynsauory news to me, when I heard that some ominous action had diuided the mutuall agreement betweene you and your wife, wherein I can not resemble you better, then to a churlish husbandman, who putteth some head-strong horse into his Teeme, and when they go forward, he striueth backward, the seruants beating him to greater rage, and the Master wanting discretion to take him away, till a more conuenient season, so that howeuer they disquiet themselves, I am sure the war in hand, is rather hindered then forwarded. Thus is it, when man and wife are not fast tyed in the bands of loue and discretion, but subiect the whole house to confusion, and send disgracefull rumor abroad to busie idle tongues, with many vntruths amongst some certainties. For alas, what man will be so foolish that loueth cleanlinessse, as to besmeere himselfe with durt and filth? what husband will be so senslesse as to revile his wife, and bring his owne name in question? what shall the children thinke to heare their mother called whore? what shall the seruants imagine to see their mistresse distracted with ialousie and suspition of one side, and shame and calumnyation on the other side? what shall the neighbours imagine, to bee acquainted with such disgraces, and whisper that a Gentleman so abused himselfe, or durst discredit his wife. Come, this must not be; For as women must admit of an hono-
table obedience, rather then imperious controwle, of

*The danger
of disagree-
ment between
man and wife
with their
dueties.*

weete and gentle perswasion, rather then contentious exprobation: of a modest disposing themselues to all household affaires, then a busie entermedling with their husbands affaires; of a fashionable entertainement at all seasons, especially a wise obseruation according to time and occasion: rather then a sudden apprehension of their husbands distempature, either in passion or affection: so must men abandon themselues from home inconueniences, beare with their wiues imperfections, not taunt before seruants, not burst out into filthy and scurrilous chiding, or reproches at all; be charitable euen concerning offence, not churlish for trifles, not deny necessaries, and in no sort giue ill example by leaud life, or bad husbandry: lest wants knocke at the doore, and then will bitternesse and displeasure enter. So that concerning falling out betwene man and wife, I thus conclude; If it bee possible to auoyde all eruptions against ciuill life, louely behauour, or necessarie busynesse: but if disagreements begin to shew a face, let the man leaue the wife for that time, and not endure the contention: let the wife retire her selfe, if the man begin, and not dare to reason the matter.

Yours, in religious care.

To his approued Friend, R.S.

*How children
ought to be
brought up.*

Go'd Sir, Your last letters were so passionate, that sure in the writing you vented sighes, if you did not shed teares, and I cannot blame you: For, a father that hath an irrigular sonne, and a dangerous daughter, not only weareth out his time to prouide them maintenance, and leaue a competency behind him, that they may ranke in the foreward of ciuill people: but watcheth his houres, and growes gray with care, lest one will not be reclaimed,

and

and the other step aside into wantonnesse. Therefore saith the wise man, that hee that setteth his sonne, hath layde a strong foundation, and he that marrieth his daughter, hath dispatched his chiefest businesse. Wherupon I would aduise you, concerning your sonnes, not to cocker them too much, or be ouer-nice, either at their vprising or dyet: not to let slip their yeares, but commit them as soone as you can into the hands of instruction: bee not of that minde, that the rod must be a tyrant to them, but rather endeuor that they feare to offend for the loue of vertue, then feare of punishment: suffer neither oath nor vncleanely speech to profane or defile their mouth, nor let them presume proudly to insult, or vnmannerly to reuile the meanest seruant. Comming forward, and growing to vnderstanding, make not nature a flauie to cunning or profit; that is, enforce them not against their owne inclination to follow that which is irkefome vnto them. For, if you tie a great spirit to a seruile trade, hee will neuer proue good chapman; or contend with dul capacitie about mystical secrets, he will neuer grow good scholler, & so in the rest: let them euer be, where either the best company shal giue good example; or if inconueniences follow, they may haue the shadow of honourable purposes: but aboue all, let them neither practise deceit nor dishonestie: for, when a mind is once corrupted with basenes, it resembles a stinking vessel, which will neuer be throughly sweetned. Concerning your daughter, presume not too much of our countrey liberty; for wantonnesse standeth at the corner of euery Street, to invite the comers-by: yet do not so restraine her, that shee may eyther murmur at the same, or complaine to her neighbours of her Parents hard hand, as though shee were viciously inclined by nature. If it bee possible, rather school her within dores, the aduenture her

with a pedant abroad; and for dancing, courtship, and such like; let the be vsed rather like a feather to a little dust, which may be brushed from the garment, the guard or seam, which shall weare out with the cloath: giue them warning offamiliarity with the seruants: For a curteous ciuility becommeth the children of Gentlemen, but wanton embraces, sitting on the knee, bearing in armes, and such like, be fearefull signes of following confusion, and too forward desires: sitting vp late, allow not; nor giue way vnto night banquets: For they resemble the stolne bread in the Proverbs: and a strumpets Title is the nethermost hell, wherin the name of Virgine is perpetuallie damned: make them not proud, either of natures portion, or the fathers dowry. For women will looke in a glasse, and shal not want any flattering to seduce them to vanity: and concerning the vshot of all reckonings, which is mariage, let her neither assume so dangerous a liberty, as to run at randome without your consent: nor be you so transported with a variety of selfe-loue, as to draw her perforce to vnpresentable inconueniences, yea many times mischifes, and confusion. For, these matches in infancy, as (contracts for mony without liking; enforecements, to vnequall yeeres, or nasty disparity, with diuers of that kind) are mereley, pullies to winde vp care, sorrow, and discontentments, and at one letting slippe the hold, to hurry them on the head of a poore afflicted virgin.

Yours, in true liberty.

To his illadvised friend, I. M.

*how seruants
ought to be
instructed.*

SIR, I am not ignorant, that the two maistring corbes, that gouern the reines of the whole world, are *primum* and *Papa*, reward, and punishment. I doe also know, that in a statute against stabbing and wilfull murther, there

there is a clause of exception inserted, for fathers and masters in correcting their children and seruants: yet will I giue no such way to the violence of passion, as that a Gentleman, or otherwise ciuill disposed liuer, should strike or wound his seruant with any dangerous weapon: nor can I any way colour your temeritie, for contending so long with that boysterous knaue, as to bee compelled to free your selfe: (for such be the words of your excuse out of his robustious closing with you) by the stabbe of a dagger, which ranne 9. inches vpward ouer his pappe. Beleeue me, it was a fearefull falling off, and I wish in my heart there had beene no such occasion giuen to draw your discretion in question, nay to endanger your person and estate. For if he had miscaryed, the king hauing lost a subiect, you must needs haue beene brought to iudicall triall, & then lawes are according to the Judges construction, or Iurors interpretation. Well, I hope from henceforth you will be better aduised, and rather bring vp your seruants so, that either they shall not offend, or after the offence be apprehensive of instruction with more gentle correction. Therefore choose the sonnes of such men, as rather will second their fathers honesty and credite, then follow their owne wantonnesse and riot: let every one haue instruction for their feuerall places, yet teach them al to obey when you command, and not one to command another: haue an eye vnto the honest diligence of the meaneſt, and grace him with a cheerefull reward. If you chide for good occasion, let the þowdest be the subiect of your first admonition; wherein be so temperate, that vndecent reuilings heate not your mouth, but words sauouring of wisedome and iustice. Thus shall the rest stand in awe, when they see you are not partiall or fearefull: if aduise serue not, spare not a smarting blow; which if it prooue a stirrer vp of rage or contempt in him, bring him to publike justice,

justice, but be not you on him, your own executioner: suffer neither oathes nor prophanation: no gaming on the Sabbath, nor for much money at any time: nay, let it be rather a recreation, with a modest acknowledging your wincking at small faultes, then any commanding voice to passe away the time, or please themselues: let them not slack the houres of attendance, nor the entertainment of friendes: giue care to no busie bodies, tale-tellers, nor flatterers of your imperfections, least gouernment, turne to confusio[n], and recreation to dissipation: as pride is a drawer on of filthy enormities, so nastines and vncomely adorning themselues brings surquedry, and loathesomenes. To conclude, in one word, let your seruants be such of all sortes, as shall doe what you prescribe, rather then make vse of the time to maintaine their owne pleasures, and licentiousnes: as for such as must performe inferior seruill duties, pay them truly, and send them to their worke orderly: neglect no seruice of God for any cause: and if you haue (as you ought) priuate praiers, let all come, and know what reverence meaneth: hearken to the time of sicknes, and let them not complaine for want, nor cry out to God for susteyning more then they can away with: vpon good deserving, adde a recompence, and let none presume to strike or reuile another. Infinit other particulars would draw on many lines, but these shall suffice, till better conueniency to shew my loue and duty, and serue for caution and advertisement.

Yours, in charitable advise.

To his noble Lady and Vertuously respected, T.G.

Vorthy Lady, I thinke it not befitting the time, nor the tendernes of your sex, to giue such life to your memory, as Catalogue the praises of that worthy knight deceased,

deceased, or draw in question his want of iudgement in this one point, or peraduenture abilitie, in leauing you thus wrapped vntowardly in accounts, and bringing you (as hauing fие daughters to marry) to the house of care and sadnessse, further then the sorrow of his losse, and the ceremonies of his exequies pretended. But I would rather open the store-house of instruction and comfort, and shew you the Embleme of Fortune, or Time shadowed with a hairy foretop, as if we might take hold thereon for any purpose; and a bald head behind, as if opportunity let slip, were not to be recouered. Therfore without ceremony, if there were not necessitie, yet out of a necessary policy, let not the noble Judge be dallyed with in his honorable purposes: and considering the heat of youth is spent; and as the Poets sing, that *Hiperions* fires burne not with a wonted blasē, be rather cautelous for a well disposed life, then indirect satisfaction of fancy: this I would say if you were rich and childeſſe, good helpeſ in all times both good and bad: but as time hath brought you to wrastle with ſome inconueniences, you muſt learne if it be poſſible to giue a fall, rather then a take foyle: & both for your own and childrens ſake, diſpence with wantonnesſe, and be rather prouidently ambitious, then ambitiouſly improuident. For by this match, your *quietus eſt* ſhall be obtained, your peace ſhall be made without diſquiet; your accounts ſhut out of the kings Exchequer; your houſhold affaires reduced to an vniſormity; your lap filled with money; your cares with ſubmiſſiue petitions; and your chamber with the better ſort of viſiters; your daughters ſhall ſtill walke in the ſchoole of courtliſſe and beſtitting ſuters, and rather be taught to ſtep vp to honor, then fall downe to feare of preferment: euē their youthfull deſires for orna-ment and coſt ſhall bee ſo ſupplyed, that you ſhall graunt without grudging, and they demaund with-

Women in
yeares ſhould
rather looke
for rich ad-
uancement,
then wanton
ſatisfaction.

out timorousnesse or combersome importunity: their portions shall be sure of augmentation. For though he do not open the strings of his owne purse, yet from custome, the vnder officers will bring in presents: and such Gentlemen as before would make question of some incombances, shall now attend your house for resort and noble conuersation: so that without controuersie there is no refusing his loue, nor disputing with any maligne circumstances of his yeares and humours.

Yours, in honest aduise.

To his much disquieted Friend, A.S.

*A Gentleman
should not bee
servant to a-
ny man that
hath a suffi-
cient estate of
his owne: but
if he be with
what policy
he must con-
tract it.*

SIR, I am ashamed to shew my selfe a traitor to gentry, and binde a free spirit to the seruitude of controwle: for the wisest & greatest must faile through imperfections, and he which submits to the command of another, cannot tell how he may bee driuen to impatience: so that I could sweare, that it were vnbefitting to a man of your estate, a Gentleman of blood, a housekeeper of account, a Justice of peace, and a commander of many seruants, to fall backe into the contemned estate of seruitude, & weare anothers blew coat. Yet because pollicy hath some secret walks into which Vertue will not enter, and that I see errors hale vs along to dangerous inconueniences, without satisfaction of humours, I am contented at this time to deceiue your apprehension with the mist of pollicie, with guilefull feeding of ambitious and contentious humours. If then your feare be so great of the knight your adioyning neighbour, and Lord of the manor, that either you must come to triall of the law, and profuse expences, or meet with contracted browes, and perillous encounters: there is no such way to wipe away the feare of these encombrances, as the sup-

supportation of the great Lord you speake of, whose seruice must be orderly implored, but cunningly obtained: wherein I would haue you resemble the Lapwing, which cryeth farthest from her nest; and so fasten your selfe vpon him, rather with admiration of his vertues, which haue altogether attracted your submission, then feare of your owne defects, or desire to bee, by his helpe, reuenged on your aduersary: and this you must strengthen a while with attendants and presence, marking whom he admits to his secret familiarity, and consorting with them, not so much for fellowship, as to be a mediation betweene your Lord and your self when occasion shall burst out, & shew some particulars of your wrongs, where by way of discourse you may intimate, that you wonder at your aduersaries audaciousnesse, not to forbear you now for his honors sake, considering one vertue inclined to another, and he would not maintaine any iniustice for a world. As for those controuersies impending, his Lordship should command him as his seruant, and ouer-rule all, as should seeine good to his honourable pleasure. This is the surest channell, as I take it, to lanch foorth your ship in the troublesome Sea of contentions, with your betters, or at least such, whom the worldes estimation reputeth in a higher eminence: So that if you can dispence with some disgraces, which may chance by distemperature of your Lord, and calumniaition standing on the tip ofidle tongues abroade, you may meet with sedition of countrey troubles, and peraduenture carry the sway of applause and obseruation, euen at publike imitations, as your credit with your master is subiect to report or opinion.

Yours, in honourable loue.

To her louing Neece, G. B.

No oathes to
be beleevued
before mar-
riage.

Mr dearest Loue, There hath passed and ouer-passed a rumour of the young Counts affecting you, wherein loue hath dealt like himselfe, and chained him to certaine streights of passion: so that by voluntary oath he hath protested conditionall mariage, if you please to afford him a primordiall satisfaction: wherein loue may Sympathise between you I know not, but meerly out of honest & honora-ble policy, goe into the open channell, rather then come neare the bankes of Nylus, where Crocodiles may deceiue you with teares; & of all other things, let no man boast of diuiding you, til you yeeld him possession of al together: & this is a caution euен amongst wantons, not to marry with him to whom dotage or misfortune hath prostituted them. For what hope is there but a following eternal iealousie? & when a breach is so made, a continuall roaring and thun-dering of whole vollies of checkes, taunts, and opprobri-ous tearmes, of whore, strumpet, filth? What had I, but an-other might haue gotten? and what know I, but thou art still a broken glasse neuer to be cemented againe? There-fore sweete Neece, stand vpon a strong guard of circum-spection, and doe not expose the certaintie of your hono-able merite and high attracting worthinesse, to the vn-certainty of deceiueable promises: I care not, though I tearme them fully resolued oathes. For one way they are yet in the pleasure of the first maker: another way, in the danger of better resolued conceit, when the heate of wantonnesse is reclaimed, and some new displeasure shall open a gappe of both your ouer-sights. But I hope I neede not ambiguously handle the cause of your vertue, and modest inclination; considering you haue many times

times cast a defiance in the face of temptation: and will now surely, when you are to bee tryed pure gold indeede, not make it adulterate by ambitious desires, or foolish credulitie.

Yours, in preuailing truth.

To his louing Cousin at Court, H.A.

Good Cousin, Seeing you are resolued to follow the sway of time, and become a Courtier, with an intent to depend vpon the fauourite of the kingdome, that noble and generous Count: you may take your owne race to leape, as high, and farre as you can: But as my aduise and experience whispers to pleasure you, there is no politic in it at all, considering your project to your selfe of bettering your estate, and husbandly desires to fill your purse, and not vaine-glorious ostentation, or publike glistering with feathers and colours, which many times beare better men then your selfe, to dangerous inconueniences; and at the best, draw on expences without other satisfaction, then courtly smiles, and deceitsfull smoke-promises. Besides, there shall be so many before you hanging on expectation of late preferments, that when you shall thinke to step forward, there will scarce bee roome for you to lay on a finger on the preuailing end of the beame of prosperitie. Therefore be ruled by me, considering some good parts may adde to your youth reputatiō, and to good carriage more respect; place your selfe as neere some quiet officer as you can, and by seruiceable attendance, not obscuring your qualitie; giue him notice of your willingnesse to bee commanded, and aptnesse to bee employed, as he shall thinke conuenient,

*He that will
enrich him-
self by seruice
must follow
some thriving
officer.*

Thus shall you contriue and winde your selfe into some profit at home, and be knowne well enough abroad: yea so well, that performing your duty for the priuat affaires of your Maister, when alteration shall happen, you may by some voices be called to the publike managing affaires for the state.

Yours, as you can desire.

To his dearest brother, G.D. —

*The Lady of
the house
must be ob-
served of
such as meare
to thrive un-
der the Lord.*

Good Brother, as I am glad, that you haue extracted the loue of your honourable Lord: so would I be the gladder, if you did contriue the continuance of the same. For there is no lesse cunning in keeping a thing well gotten, then in attaining it before it be in possession: but if it be as I heare, you are so far from true pollicy in this kind, that I am afraid presumption will trip your expectation on the ground, and giue your forwardnes a foile. For they say, that you disagree with my Lady, and vnder colour of my Lords profit, oppose her in triuall demaunds: take heed (I pray you) in time, and if you meane to stand firme, as you sometime, for reuerence of her estate, take her by the arme to lead her along, let her likewise take you by the hand, to settle you in securitie. For if women wrought *Salomon* the wisest and greatest of all Princes, out of his full course of vertue and pietie, such a woman as she will quickly conceiue, if she be disesteemed of you, and as quickly gone to mislike of your perceptorines, or audaciousnes, and as quickly desire to be reuenged, wherein if she be resolute, you shall not know who hurt you, nor she care, how you are ouerthrowne: therefore good brother, be not deceiued in this contumacy, but reduce your selfe to vnderstand, there is no aduauncing the colours of establishment on the citadel of your Ladies fauor, if the Lady

Barricado

Barricado the entrance, or seeme enuious after your proceeding.

Tours, in all occasions.

To the honourable L. and his high esteemed Patron.

Right Honourable, Although all the rivulets of fauour and grace, haue their sowrce and flowings from the fountaine and spring of Maiestie: (for neither is honour bestowed, petition granted, commission sealed, nor any things disposed without the kings liking and firme:) Yet is there a kinde of policie to bee vsed in contriuing and compassing the same. For to step bluntly to a king, and vrge him to a grant, or peraduenture expostulate the matter with him, may seeme vnsauery, and without the sure ground of a high exalted fauorite, receiue a protraction, ifnot a deniall: therefore your honor must be contented to doe as the Lords of *France* amongst themselves, one to preferre the suite and request of another: so that if this Baron would haue an addition of honour, that Counsellor is engaged, and intimates to the Prince his woorth, his valure, his vertue, his former imployment, and such like. If that Earle would haue such a grant, then doth the other take a time to illustrate the latters praises, and inferre the necessitie of acknowledging & rewarding the same, with all the gratiouse properties of liberalitie incident to a Prince. Thus must your Lordship make some second meanes, and how euer Honour could be contented to repine to depend vpon the liking of inferiors: yet must policy restraine passion, and discretion give you notice when the king is disposed to grace: and so though a present must be exacted, you need onely hold your head, and be contented till your businesse bee determined, in which you must apply your selfe to the time, so farre as in honestie

*Some Lord
or other must
be made an
Agent to
obtaine a suite
of the king.*

honestie you may: But you must speake them faire whom you like not; and smile where the heart swelles, and goe along euuen with the obseruation of Court, though you shuld take a iourney another way to better purpose. These be the passages to which time and fortune drives all atten- dants in Princes courtes, and so it is fit so farre as policie may not hinder the peace of a good conscience. For God hath said, they are Gods, and there is no such proximity to a godhead, as with a breath to aduance whom they will, to haue mercy on whom they please, and to cast downe the presumption of such who abuse their fauor for vnhonest pretences. And thus I leaue your honorto the order pre- scribed, and successe of affaires.

Your Honors obseruant.

To the Right Honorable and worthy L. G.

*Suites in
court are ne-
uer dis-
patched with-
out great at-
tendance.*

Right Honorable, seeing you haue vouchsafed to de-
cend so low a degree of humiliation, as to make me partaker of your secrets: I will surely raise vp my selfe (as farre as I dare) to yeelde you some reason for our last conference; and warrant your honor, that there is no vnkindnes thrust vpon you, though your busines seeme de-
tracted, and (as you supposed) procrastinated: For be-
leeue it, there is a pollicy of state, not to dispatch suiterers too fast, for diminishing the glory of the present court, and weakning the maiesty of the Prince: if euery one should be admitted at their owne pleasure: & as in the height of mar- tiall dissipline, some things must be absolutely commaun- ded, not disputed vpon, all secrets are not to be reuealed, and euery man that dare aske a question, must not be re-
solued: so in the Counsell of kinges, and their best ordered courts, no man ought to contest with the iudgement, that the Chancellor shall pronounce: nor traduce the last verdict

verdict after he hath appealed to the Prince. For if you sel-
dome bring a Phisition in question , that knowing his pa-
tient out of danger of death , and of such a constitution,
that some excellent potion will quickly aduance him to
the pristinate state of health, and yet dallieth with him a-
while, peraduenture to shew some secrets of arts : perad-
uenture to make him beleue a difficulty in the recouery,
and peraduenture to inrich his purse by an often resort to
him that is able to giue. There is no reason to presume so
farre, as to cal in question the affairs of great Counsellors,
especially determining for the common good, without
partiall interposing eithir their own purposes or passions:
nor can any man come vnto them at any time, but diuers
shall bee found afore him , who challenge a dispatch of
their businesse, according to the priority of their suites:
therfore your honor must lay no such burthen of the state,
to thinke , if there were such an interposition , that any
mans priuate malice could preuayle with the authoritie,
grauitie and wisedome of the rest. Besides, it may be there
is a further policie to draw out the thred of this cloth of
businesse at the greatest length, to keep you from a further
suite , or troubling the king with other matters of impor-
tance, till this be dispatched , and hung on the file of assu-
rance in your behalfe. This I presumed to write vnto you,
because you commanded : but in regard there bee some
things you will not command, nor I can iustifie in the an-
swer; I meane to reserue them till I haue opportunitie to
present my dutie vnto you, as you haue shewed a generous
minde, to manifest your good opinion toward me.

Your Honours devoted.

To his well experienced friend, and noble min-
ded Gentleman, G.P.

*A military
policy to re-
straine insol-
ent mutinies.*

Noble Sir, Whereas at your last conference you told me comming from *Germany* to *Antwerpe*, you saw no watch set, and a kinde of fearefull stilnesse amongst the souldiers, wherein I could not resolute you so suddenly, because you spread no larger cloth of nouelties, and peraduenture durst not in that place raiſe any ſuſpition by demanding many questions: I haue now thought good to adde to your experience ſome intelligences of my owne, whereby as you well ſayd, then I doe gather the occaſion of that defection, and deſiſting from their martiall ceremonies: You muſt then vnderſtand, that the Garriſons haue newly mutined, and from iſolent attempts drawne a fearefull execution on ſome principall offendors: the Gouernour of the towne and citadell, did put in praetice an ancient vſance and policie of martiall discipline, to command a ceſſation from orderly watch, and ſouldier-like ſeruices: And this was an abſolute cuſtome euē amongſt the *Romans*, that when iſolent and tumultuous ſouldiers had looked with grimme and traiterous viſages on the face of good order, and made a repugnant diſobedience againſt all law and restraint, the Captaines preſently prohibited any calling to the watch, any preparation to the Parado, beating the drums, attending the colours, or to uſe any ceremonious brauerie: whereby the mutiners, that were ſo luſty before, ſeeing what a conuſion they had wrought, and how they preſented a ſort of Pedlarie reapers in a ſcattered field, beganne to bewaile the want of their honourable cuſtomes, and to confeſſe their former rudenesſe and ouersight. And this was the cauſe of the stilnesſe in *Antwerpe*, at your lod-

gin

ging in the towne. And amongst other policies of warre, according to the seuerall businesse in hand, of which you shall heare more hereafter, when we haue further leisure to dispute of other occurrents.

Yours, in terror of death.

To his well disposed Friend, Mr. M.D.

Good Sir, Conceiue of me what you please, there is not a man in this kingdome shall haue more interest in me, then your selfe; and that you shall well perceiue by my plain and true satisfaction of your demands, although it be somewhat too intricate to deale in such confused questions, and dangerous relation of businesse; Whereas then you demand the reason, why so many great and noble persons haue (as it were) met with death and destruction, in the violent race of their turbulent innouation, and insolent wilfulness: not taking warning by precedent examples, nor terrified with the euer-impending reward of treason, which is the ouerthrow both of themselues and families. I answer, that truely I can yeeld you no reason, because all they pretend, is not onely against reason, but many times against policie, and at all times against honesty and religion: yet can I giue you some false fires, and (as it were) contrive adulterate excuses out of fauour and partialitie. You haue read then that the diuell in compassing the earth, did consider mens frailties in his progresse, and as the principall marke of the world, hee most gloriously attempts, principallities and powers: so that sometimes hee pleadeth the axiomes of Philosohers, and recireth a pestilent position out of *Euripides*: that if faith and loyaltie be to be rent asunder, it is excusable, in com-

*Wat policy so-
euer ambition
build vpon, ie
is at last cast
downe with
death and de-
struction.*

passing a Diadem, and reaching at a Crowne. Thus *Stephen*, Earle of *Blois*, vsurped the kingdome of England, and made warres on the faction of the Empresse. And thus *Henrie* the fourth infringed his first vowe, to steppe no further then the Dutchie of Lancaster: but when hee found no hinderances, hee quickly ranged ouer all other territories and iurisdictions. Sometimes hee dilates Matchiuilian policies, and telleth men that are cruell and ambitious, that they which meane to haue a smooth walke to contentment, yea to passe the time in any Orchard or Garden of pleasure, must not onely remooue the greater blockes, sticke, and stones: but as occasion serues, picke out the sharpe pibbles, and rowle the same smoother. Thus *Athaliah* destroyed the kings stocke to gaine the Diadem. And thus *Richard* the third, first remooued the *Queenes* kindred, after vsurped the persons of the two Princes. Sometimes hee whispereth in the eares of moderate kings, that they may bee iealous in pointes of soueraigntie; and who shall controwle them, if they settle their feares and peace, though they see the bleeding neckes of such as they feare? Thus *Adoniah* fell vnder his yonger brother. Thus *Nero* put *Corbulo* and *Germanicus* to death, because they were reputed worthie of the kingdome. Thus was *Mortimer* in *Henrie* the fourths time, as it were, banished from the Court. Thus was long before that, *Robert* Duke of *Normandie* depriued of his eyes. Thus was *Edward Plantagenet* Earle of *Warwicke* imprisoned and destroyed: with many such like. Sometimes hee maketh the iustifying of a faction, and the louing of one another, an honest cause of rebellion: As you saw in the Barons ~~www~~; in the beginning of *Henrie* the fourth, when the king should haue bene destroyed

destroyed at Oxenford, and afterward when the *Per-
sies* maintayned the coadiuements of *Worcester* and
Mortimer. Sometimes hee rayseth innouation and
treason out of the circle of ambition and vaine-glory,
vpon any pretence of a title, as you saw in the first
claime of *Richard Plantagenet*, Duke of Yorke: and in
the last tumults of the Earle of *Warrewicke*, in *Edward*
the fourths time. Sometimes hee deceiueth honour
with couetousnesse, and bogges the mindes of gene-
rous spirits with hope of increase of living, and aug-
mentations of titles. Thus was the Duke of *Bucking-
ham* caught in a snare of the Earledome of *Hertford*, and
not onely stretched his arme out to helpe *Richard* the
third to mount on the throne of Maiestie, against all
religion and pietie: but to spreade the colours of his
owne reuenge against the tyrant himselfe: whereby hee
lost his head. Sometimes hee impostures men with
the fanaticall hopes of diuellish promises from sorcerie,
and witchcraft: As you may reade of *Elinor Cobham*, who
well expected the preferment of the Protector her hus-
band, and of ~~Henry~~^{stay} Duke of *Buckingham*, whom the
Cardinall ouerthrew in *Henry* the eights time. Somtimes
hee bloweth the bellowes of popularitie, and swelleth
men ouer bigge with the windy breath of opinion: as in
diuers worthy presidents, and instances of our owne, wher-
in euен the best subiects haue yet taken a wrong course to
curbe their Princes, and making good causes (as refor-
mation of disorders, remoouing of euill Councellours,
protecting of Justice, and maintaining the honour of
martiall discipline, &c. Baudes to wicked and troublesome
spirits, haue in the ende pulled on death and insuppor-
table affliction on themselues and families: and sometimes
he inciteth euен cōmon persons to presumptuous darings

and dangerous troubles, falsifying their wicked pretences, on the glorious shewes of the kingdomes good, as in the Irish expeditions, the rebellions of *Straw*, and *Cade*: the wicked purpose of *Perkin Marbeck*: the clamours of *Ket*, the insurrections of the *North*, and such like: In all which, from the beginning to the ending, there is no one sound and substanciall reason, but must needs be ouerthrowne with the shoudering of truth and vprightnes. And thus could I fill you volumes with precepts and instances, and both diuide and subdiuide to infinit particulars, wherein greatnes and pollicy resemble poison in the hearts of corrupt persons, which runneth from veine to veine, and neuer desisteth till all be infected: and at last the very life blood contaminated: Nay, I could haue spread your letter to a greater bredth, euen with modern examples, and daily positions: but I cannot name them without offence, and traducing of many of their imperfектions and follies: and therefore I will leaue what I may not write, to a priuate relation, when we may meet with securitie.

Yours, to trust onely.

To her dearest husband.

Men must submit to their fortune. M^r onely life, I may not write at large, nor one word but what another ouersees: therefore I pray you consider of me and your children, and how euer your vertue fill your heart with constancy; yet remember, that in all ages, and with all persons, vertue doth not thriue alike; nor must a man proclaime all he knowes, or divulge what he thinkes: so thatthere is no remedy for your enlargement, but a patient enduring, a politike silence, an humble subission, and plausible casting your selfe and cause into the lappe of the *Queenes* fauor, and vnder the shadow of that great Lords mantle. No more: neither I dare, nor must: but that I am and will be,

Yours euer loving wife in distresse.

To his ill aduised Sonne, T.G.

Most foolish and idle headed, I haue heard thee sometimes discourse of historicall relations, because I should strengthen my opinion, that thou hast not bene a truant at schoole, nor a traitor to nature, in ouerthrowing some good parts alotted as thy portion. But I wonder, that amongst the rest, thou dost not remēber a certain law of the *Lacedemonians* against disobedient children, who were publikely whipt, and when they continued refractory, they were despightfully hanged, as enemies to the commonwealth: so that if thy profuse expences, riotous courses, disobedient wilfulness, irregular conditions, dangerous company, and intemperate abusing the time, were in those dayes to follow thee to that barre of censuring, I should surely take no further care for thy punishment, nor feare for thy hereafter ouerthrow. But because thou liuest in a corrupt age and commonwealth, belike thou thinkest thy selfe disgraced, & out of the fashion, if thou be not corrupt too; nay monstrously wicked, & degenerating. For, what hope can I haue of the preseruation of my estate and family after death, when thou darest presume in my life to carry an absolute sway against my prescriptions, and runne three hundred pounds in debt, to all our troubles; And if thou come to particulars, how bare and poorely will thy excuse seeme? how vgly and deformed will thy vanity appeare? I brought thee with a gentle hand to the study of the law, whereon both profite and honours depends: and thou hast not onely neglected the same; but with a kind of contempt and despight, abandoned thy study, and because we should be sure of thy hate and vilipending such a iewell, thou art bold to boast of pawning thy bookees, and that thou wilt not curbe a braue spirit,

*A sonne re-
prehended for
his disordered
life.*

spirit, (thou mayst say a diuellish ruffinlinesse) with stupid and dull inclosing thy selfe in a Cabinette, and poaring on harsh and vnpleasant lines. I taught thee a way to handsonnesse and ciuitie, shewing thee (like a Father) the difference betweene pride and comeliness: and thou art so farre from the modest vse of Gods creatures, in this kinde, that thou hast transshaped thy selfe with filthy disguises, of long-haire, diffused Apparell, coloured Bands, gaudie Ornaments, ridiculous fashions: yea, thy very heele and spurre-leathers shew the lightnes of thy minde, vanitie of thine affections, and deformities of both: So that from top to toe, the best excuse is the fashion: the best of these fashions so out of frame, that wisedome hateth them, and pietie pittieh them. I instructed thee with the modest oratory of good demeanour, and how weakly they were armed, that stood at defiance, with patience and vertue, building a poore frame on the high exalted Title of valure: as though vice must either be carryed vp with the strong arme of robustiousnes, or coloured ouer with the sophisticate paintings of good-fellowship; courage, not disparaging of Gentry: and that a man liuing in eminence and expectation of glorie, must not giue way to any discredite. But thou like a resty-jade, hast runne back-wards, and affrighted thy owne good spirite, with fearfull blood-sheddings, quartells, and contentions: exposing thy selfe to barren and beastly destructions, in despight of order, and good gouernment: So that I cannot compare that valour, which thou wouldst haue graced with such an *Epithite*, better then to the beautie of a strumpet, who is eyther mercenarie to all commers, or so kinde, that shee cannot gainsay any, asking the question: and at last, maketh her self abhorred or vilipended. There be other matters of offence wherewith I could loade you, but these for this time, shall startle you a little, and prepare you to some

some better consideration, against I examine you further, or absolutely determine to shew you a stronger hand of reformation: therefore be aduised you were best, and if you dare forget I am your father, and must maintaine you: remembet you are a Christian; and liue vnder a religion and law, which will clip the wings of such licentiousnes, and deplume the feathers of all such consuming birds of prey.

Your displeased Father.

To her wilfull and seduced friend, M. G.

VNkinde, and ill aduised. To what purpose haue you made me beleue, that you neuer spake sentence, but loue ioyned the wordes: neuer breathed vow, but vertue instructed the heart: neuer performed action, but my worth was the *magnes* to draw you into industry: and yet you can bee contented to wipe away all with the slight hand of carelesnes, and to forsake me without a cause; yea, to despight me the more, to abandon a faithfull and true friend, for the beastly shew and loue of a strumpet, whose eies sparkle with deceit, & very similes are more dangerous then Crocadiles teares, which commonly weepe ouer such, they meane to destroy. O that thou either hadst discouered this falsehood before, whereby I might haue taken the way of better assurance, and conformable honesty; or wilt thou yet defend the poore troopes of chastity, against the mighty armies of incontinency and wantonnes? then should this wanton know, what it were to betray modesty into the handes of filthy vncertainty, and to bring simplicite into the bondage of passion and affection. But I preethee let me dispute with thee a little: Haue I not seene thee laugh a fellow to scorne, as a buffone, or iester, for wearing great guilt rings full of coulerd glasses, garded cloaths, capons feathers, and a ridiculous aspect? and what

Loue findeth fault with inconstancy and follow a strumpet, who is desired.

H is

is a strumpet, but suitable in euery thing? Haue I not read of a foole, that was led like an Oxe to the slaughter, and went in the shutting of the euening into the house of a strumpet? Haue I not heard thee tell the tale of a passenger, who comming ouer a dangerous water vpon a narrow bridge, being drunke, and returning the next day to see what aduenture hee had escaped, died with the apprehension? And what is a whores conuersation, but a sudden perill ouerpassed with feare and trembling? And so in infinite particulars; whereby it cannot choose, but either you are insensible of good, or desperate of all bad; otherwise you would not come within the reach of heauens vengeance, and vertues curses: I meane my owne poore cries, and teares, which if they once should be vented with bitternesse of my soule, beleeue it, they would preuaile with the God of mercy, to draw thee and thy perfidiousnesse into the house of vengeance, for thy cruelty & mischievous abusing so constant, and innocent a friend.

Your poore abused Friend.

To his much disordered Friend, F.M.

*Against swearing and
committal.*

Good Sir, If I were not tyed by the band of friendship, to all those duties, wherein honest men are, or should be actors; yet am I bound by the lawes of Christianitie to pleade Gods cause, and not to suffer (as farre as in me lies) so great a iustice to be ouerthrowne with the violent thrust of desperate and irreligious shoudrings. To what end then dare you so prophane the name of God? or to what purpose do you breath out the smoke of oathes, yea commen periuries? as if the sulphure of that infernall furnace, were raised vp to darken the light of the firmament. Doe you know what danger you incurre? the vengeance prepared, the threatnings denounced, and the punishments appro-

appropriate to such idle and defiling wantonnesse? Do you not reade, that you shall be guilty before Gods seate, for taking his name in vaine? Doth not the Prophet tell you, that plagues shall inuade that house, where the swearer remaineth? Hath not our Sauior instructed vs, with yea, and nay? shewing plainly, that whosoeuer digresseth out of that path, walketh to perdition. And are not the Apostles the voyces of many waters, and the sounds of Gods trumpets against further irreligion, and vndecent oathes? And how darc you then continue in horrible prophanation, and either not beleue, or not apprehend this truth? Besides, if Sathan had taught vs cunning enough to excuse other vices: The glutton may say, he is a hungred: the vncleane person, he is ready to burne: the couetous man, he is affrayd to want: the murtherer, reuenge is sweete: the drun-kard, that his drought is great: the theefe, that he is in distresse, and such like. But the swearer hath neither reason, nor excuse for his idlenesse: no man enforceth him, the flesh inticeth not, the world prouoketh not, onely custom and the diuell raise a commotion against pietie and sinceritie. So that it is almost come to passe, that a swearer and a lier moue in the same orbe of incredulity, and as the shepheards ranne so often in vaine to the boy, that told them the Wolfe was come into the fold, that when he came indeed, they did not beleue him. So doth euery man abandon a swearer in his most vrgent occasions, because vnurged he made no conscience of an oath. Therefore, if not for Gods loue, Christian duety, sweetnesse of conuersation, and assurance of our contracts & frienship; yet for feare of hell, and in regard of saluation, let mee diuert you from this horrible, and hatefull vice.

Yours, in reformation.

To her miserable rich Friend, P.D.

*Against co-
uetousnesse.*

SIR, Although it appertaineth not to our sexe to take the rodde of restraint into our hands, and seeme free Denizons in the kingdome of wisdome, & good counsel, more then men: yet because I am engaged for youto that honourable Lady: & ser open the enclosure of your praises from my owne iudgement, and experience of your worth: I must needes presume (beyond your expectation) and craue pardon, if I seeme to haue a more daring confidence in this reprehension. To what ende then haue you cast durt and filth into the streame of your spirit, where a confluence of many vertues make a flood of perfection, and euен now, when a very mizer should set at large his hard-bound heart for expences, haue damned vp the same, with the mudde of auarice: you that haue carryed away good opinion with you in times past for courteous, affable, courtly, well-descended, free, noble, and (aboue the rest) a liberall Gentleman: now to make a stoppe, and darken all that lustre with a miserable sparing, and niggardly conuersation. And when in a time of professing loue, which seemeth to shed teares at your degenerating condition, and to whom? to a Ladie of honour and iudgement: whose very presence may command presents and extraordinary expences; and where? in both your countreys, where reproach stands watching for any occasion, and eniuious eyes behold you with repining, and would faine looke iustly awry vpon the least deformity. Be therefore (good Sir) better aduised, and remember, that in religion couetousnesse is resembled to Idolatrie: in Philosophy, to all wickednesse, and ouerthrow of the best resolutions: in moralitie, to the dropsie, an infatiate disease, which the more corruption it hath,

the

more it desires: in ciuill conuersation, to a nastie comber-somnesse, whiche terrifieth one another, and breaketh the band of true friendship. Alas, what doe you gaine by vnmeasurable hoording vp of wealth? but a base report, and a ridiculous pointing at, euuen as you ride along. Nay, you shall be compared to a barking Dogge at cattle, feeding on hay, which will neither let them take a repast, nor can helpe himselfe to satisfie nature. O, good Sir, though I am no Scholler, yet can I reade what other men doe write: and of all the vices which are enemies to a quiet soule, and free borne Gentleman, couetousnesse is the worst, basest, and most ridiculous. For, besides that, it detaineth vs from the ciuill vse of Gods blessings in the world, so that neither in diet, nor ornament, a man is master of himselfe: it maketh vs vnapt to the entertainment of such vertues, as commonly helpe vs out of the filthy puddles of disreputation, & keepe vs secure from calumnia, and bewitching corruption of profite: therefore, for honours sake, for vertues sake, for friendships sake, for my sake, for your owne sake, for posterities sake, remember where about you goe, and how a good and freedemeanour will preuaile, when these hard enclosed hands seeme rather to threaten stroakes, then promise hopefull entertainment.

Yours, if you can be mine.

To her unkinde Friend, R.S.

SIR, I perceiue by my selfe, that poore and vnfornatuate persons may well be resembled to threatening tempests, from whose violence euery man seeketh a present shelter: else would one neuer haue bene so discourtoous, as to haue denied me a small request, or continued your despight, in

*Against de-
nial of trifles
amōgst friends
and feare of
combersom-
nesse.*

abandoning my companie, for feare of com-
bersomenesse, or importuning you to more, then your
owne free-will should condiscend vnto. Is this the law of
friendship? Or what doe you imagine can bee the ende of
such vnkindnesse? Who taught you such rules? Or can
humanitie thinke well of such peruersnes? Well, I am a
woman, and therfore will be so farre from immodesty, that
I will impute it to my ill deseruing, not your bad disposi-
tion: but if I were a man, howeuer I disclaime quarrels,
I would make this a matter of complaint, wherein if your
wit did not winde you out, by the scrue of sufficiēt excuse,
it should surely turne to displeasure, and cause other ma-
ligne circumstancies to threaten you further. Therefore
from henceforth I will bee so farre from louing you, that I
will hate my selfe, for deceiuing my kinde hart in affecting
so vnkinde a friend. And thus I bid you fare-well; yea, to
fare as well as I did, in the want of that I write for, and the
discomfort I endured, to think how ill I had bestowed my
first liking.

Yours, if you will haue it so.

To his illrespected friend.

*Against idle
excuses.*

SVspitious fir, what cause haue I giuen you to deny your
selfe? or how could I deserue so ill at your hands, as to
drive you frō your own house, whē you were lockt in your
study? belike you thought I came to borrow mony, or beg a
dinner, in neither of which, a friend, & such a friend as I pre-
sumed you to be, by reasō of your own protestatiōs, ought
to be denied: which makes me remember, a tale in the
Italian courtier, of a gētl: who cōming to aske for his friēd,
was only answered by a seruāt, *he was not within*: whervpō
(for his better intelligence) he departed satisfied in shewe,
till

•ill some occasion directed the other to demand for him: whereupon he answered aloud in his owne behalfe, hee was gone from home: Not so sayd the other; for I heare your voyce, and know it too well to be mistaken. But (sayd he againe) you are a strange man, I beleue your maide when she told me you were not within: And are you so incredulous, that you will not beleue my selfe? But, as I remember, there hath bene no such passages betweene vs; therefore I wonder at this sodaine dispatch, and cannot be perswaded, but you wish a dissolution of our combined loues. For (my owne part) I will not come to the house of my friend to receiue any affront of deniall; and he that wil take occasion of sequestration, to make such a man of my condition stand without doores, is not worthy to reioyce in true neighbourhood, though there had bene a wanton in your armes, or any Bagge a telling.

Yours, if you be worthy.

To the worthy Lady, R.C.

GOOD LADY, If your honour and vertue resemble not the *primum mobile*, of the Spheres; to carry about the lesser circles of our duty and obseruation: I see no reason why a generous and free borne Gentleman, should betray the cause of GOODNES into the hands of GREAT-
grat persons
NES, with degenerating conditions. For, to what end hath a voyce from heauen proclaimed the Godhead of Princes, and higher aduanced persons; but to resemble them in perfection, and highly exalted vertues? as for shews and outward ceremonies, they bee mecre'y tumorsof vanity, pride, & ambitious desires, and the best of your liues may be cōpared to a gaudy maske at Christmas, which if it carry more state, & last a little longer in the kings court, then another place; yet must it haue amelan choly farewell, &

is

*Against pride
and tyrannous
behaviour in
great persons*

is forgotten, like water spilt out of a Bucket: whereas affability, pious inclination, liberall compensation, regard of the afflicted, raising the weake, mercy, compassion, and such like, be indeed faire resplendant starres, worth praise and obseruation; from whose influence can proceed nothing, but auspicious presages; and are sure to make you famous to posterity, euen from the mouthes of widowes and orphanes, when your painted sepulchers shall lye troden to dust, and your proudest edifices be turned to other vses. Be not therefore good Lady, so transported with paf-
sion, or open eard to euery flattering insinuating groome, that I shall neuer be heard in my iustifications, though worthy to cliame my owne, nor enjoy such priuiledges and immunitiess, as my auncestors haue filed on record to their owne credit, and posterities immitation. For beleue it, there is no such corasie to a gentle minde, as to be de-
ceiued in the expectation of anothers worth, and where he hoped of support and countenance, to be menaced with threatnings, and contracted browes, which if you saw, how ill they became your louelines and beauty, you would quickly admit of a sweeter cheetfulnes, and make me hap-
pie with a plausible alteration.

Yours, as a louer of honor.

To his seruant, F. M.

*Foolishnes
and disho-
nesty in a ser-
vant condem-
ned.*

Although I haue plentifull matter of reprehending you affoorded me, yet will I onely at this instant redeeme your foolishnes, and dishonesty: foolishnes, in winding your selfe further into such intricate busines, then either your cunning or strength can help you out of dishonesty: in conuerting the mony appointed to generall imploy-
ment to your owne aduantage, whereby the Tenants are disabled, my selfe discredited, and you stand vnder the burthen

burthen of my as iust (and peraduenture) heauy displeasure. Therefore, I charge you take some other course, and that sodainly, to prevent a further account and agrauatiō thereof; or you shall finde, that as I can be a kinde Master, so I know how to punish a lesse grosse crime, and make you an obedient seruant.

To his miserable and most wretched sonne, R.B.

Thou cupshot, stain to my name, & torture to my thoughts, All the while I looked on the filthy & menstrous cloth of thy vices, I remēbred the story of the old man of Lions, who enquiring after his sons misdemeanours, with a fond partialitie, began to cloud them with one excuse or another; as that gouernement and discretion would moderate his riot, time would coole his blood, and danger of the law terrifie him from swaggering: marriage and the attratiue condition of a good wife would diuert him from lasciuiousnesse, with such like: till vnderstanding hee was a drunkard, he wrong his hands, & washt them wirth teares, as desperat of his recoverie. For in this vice, custome & age are so forcible, that men are so far frō reformation, as they grow from bad to worse, & from worse, to be loathsome to theselues and al ciuil company. So played I with thee, and dried vp thy mother cheeke with my kisses, kept her rage from desperate furie with excuses; held her hands from wringing with sweet persuasions; shewed her instances of many licentious yong men redused to gouernment, till we heard of this eruption of beastiality, past all limitation, or hope of amendment: A drunkard! that I haue liued to see this day, and my owne shame and disgraces ripe ned in thy rottennesse. Let mee tell thee, how the Lacedemonians were woont to do, after they had found a drunkard wallowing in the durt, and (like a Swine)

*Against
drunkenesse.*

I besme-

besmeered in his filthines, to bring forth their children, to beget in them a deadly detestation of the spectacle they beheld. But how? that if any fore-warned, and by such exemplary cautions terrified, fell into the bogges of such by-wayes, out of the tract of Temperance, and pathway of discretion, they were publikely whipt: but I am affraide thou wilt serue me like the beastly younker of *Strasborough*, who when his father led him to such a spectacle, where besides the loathesomnes of the party wallowing in his vomit, the ridiculousnes of the action, set the spectators on worke, to the clapping their hands, and extraordinary iollitie: was so farre from misliking of the same, that hee onely demaunded, where the good wine was, which had made the good man in such a taking. And wilt thou serue me so indeed? Are the pleasant voyces of my fatherly instruction discords vnto thee? Is there no remedy, but I must see thee irrecoverably plunged in a quagmire of so loathsome a vice? Oh that I might rather see thy death, then this disorder; and cease to bee a Father, then to haue so vntoward a sonne. My prayer is, Eyther mend, or end: And so I leaue thee. *Your Father, if you be sober.*

To her unkinde Husband.

*Against the
breach of
wedlocke in
a man.*

VW Retched and miserable man: How darest thou lift vp thy Adulterate eyes to heauen, and behold the pure and christalline Firmament, wherein that everlasting Law-giuier sits in Triumph, against the day of vengeance, to iudge such perseuerāt delinquēts, as thy self? or dost thou imagine, that those strict duties (commanded from the beginning) were but matters of pollicie? or that position of man & wife, being one flesh, was meerly breath and exhalation? Surely it must needs bee so with *Atheists* and profane liuers; And I am affraide to the hereafter horror of thy

thy soule, that thou wilt tumble into the pit of burning lasciuiousnes: from whence it is easier to be kept frō falling, then once fallen, to recover out. But O foole, looke againe with brighter eyes, and reade with more iudicious vnderstanding: the lips of a whore are as sweete as honie, to the taste of fooles; but in her heart is the sting of scorpions, yea, the poyson of aspes, lies vnder her lips: and wilt thou then aduenture the stinging, when there is no *Cataplisme* for the soare? Wilt thou forget the honest wife of thy youth, for a disloyall and impudent stranger? Wilt thou despise thy children, resembling oliue branches about thy Table, being buds of the Blessings promised a good man, for Bastards plants, which the hand of Diuine Iustice will soone roote out? wilt thou runne into the sincke of lustfull confusion, that maist trace the faire walks of contentment, with chast embracings? Oh doe not so I charge thee: nay, by the contracts to our first vowes, I coniure thee, returne to the pleasant springs of our amity: and I will wash thee cleane againe, and make thee sweete, with teares and kisses of a louing wife.

Your true wife, in your vntrath.

To his periurde and lasciuious wife.

THou forsworne wretch: To what end hast thou profited thy selfe to filthinesse, & abandoned the strong and certaine supportation of grace, for the momentarie ticklings of pleasure: so that by this filthy dashings of lusts lothsome chariots, we are all bemyred, deformed, & made odious to the world: thy selfe art branded for a strumpet, and in the best excuse but a brokē glasse, neuer to be set together againe. I am made a by-word, & a pointing-stocke; not that the disloyalty of a whore can ouerthrow the reputation of a vertuous & honest man: but because corrupted times haue taught men a mischieuous lesson, of taunts & contemptuous scorninges: thy children appeare not but with

*Against
whordom in
the woman.*

suspitious faces; and I dare not looke vpon them for feare some harsh news should whisper in mine eare their bastarde: our friends and acquaintance dare not meete without murmuring; and me thinks I heare them say, what shall we do in the house of shame, and eate at the table of incontinency? Oh that thou hadst remembered *Judah* against *Thamar*, that she should be burnt for playing the whore; & yet a widow, and before the law: But when the *Jewes* were reduced to obedience, adultery was punished with death. But me thinks I heare the diuell to prompt thee, that they which dare aduenture their soules, dare hazzard their liues: and now it is not so strict as it was in the time of the law: For Christ himselfe forgaue the woman taken in adultery, and we liue in a commonwealth far from such extremity. Is this your sophistry? take heede of couesening your owne soule, and deceiuing the trust which Christ hath reposed in thee, making thee therby partaker of his pretious blood, and thy own redemption. But how? neither to spill the one by casting it abroad with vncleane and polluted hands; nor betray the other by conspiring with presumptuous sinners, to rebel against grace, repentance, & newnes of life; wherin if thou dost not examin thy selfe, & prepare to better conformity, I need not breath out vengeance against thee, or seek a greater justice, then thy mischeuous will, & vnpentent life shall pull vpon thy disguised shamelesse face, and defiled mishapen soule.

Your husband if you do not diuide him.

Excusing Letters.

To his best Friend, G.L.

Good Sir, I would not haue you stagger in your opinion of me, considering I haue alwaies with an vpright hand held vp the beame of our friendship: & would neuer giue my heart leaue to entertaine a thought of politicke mis-

Excuse for
not lending
money.

misdoubt, either of your abilitie or honesty. For the very name of a friend shal cōmand my person, much more my goods: but such a man as your selfe hath interest in my life & spirit. Therefore belceue it, I was so destitute of mony at that time, that casting vp an irkesome account of my brothers departure, necessity enforced the pawning of my v- tensels to furnish him; wherein if any experience, or example haue taught my tung the cūning of excuses, let it here- after grow too big for my mouth, & when my wants knock at the doore for supply, let hands of Adamant admit them no entrance to my insupportable afflictiōs. But wheras you lay a further imputation vpon me, that my credit caried an ouerswaying command of my rich neighbor: true it is, that in former times, as Dous resort to glistring painted hou- ses; as Farmers bring their seed into fat ground; as Beasts & cattle resort to feeding places; & as all the world is tran- sported with priuat respect, I carried vp a head of thriuing wantonnes, & he looked vpon me with a correspondent a- lacity, but no sooner came the pulling hooke to throw down the fruit of my fertile trees, wherby he perceiued the boughs bare, and saw the knots and branches battered in peeces: but he suspected my prosperity, and added withall a fearefull prophesie of hereafter canker-eating, & decay both of root and rinde. Thus are my hopes abortiue con- cerning my interest in him: & to speake the truth, I am so fearefull of a deniall, that I had rather sit still with some ease, then rise and fall with vtter dispaire. Thus if I haue wonne the field against your incredulitie, and brought vp preuailing forces to strengthen your loue, and good will still on my side: I am then my selfe againe, and pro- test I rejoyce more truely in your sweete conuersation, then a wanton could doe, if his mistresse were to hang about his necke with deceiueable kisses, and counterfeit embraces. For they cōmonly resemble the Yuy, running vp

a tower with dangerous loosening the stones, when true friendship is like *Atlas* and *Hercules*, supporting of the heauen of prosperitie, and life from falling, yea from failing.

Your iustifiable Friend.

Excuse for being importunate in the behalfe of a friend.

To his Honourable, L.G.

Honourable Lord, Whereas I vnderstand, that you excepted against my last importunitie, as if I transcended the bounds of good manners; and abased your greatnesse with carrying too slight a respect toward you; I hope I shall finde you so fauourable, both to admit of my iustifiable excuses, and to distinguish betweene presumption and necessitie. Wherefore I pray you, remember the story of *Aurelianus* the Emperour, who once proclaimed a stately sequestration of his person from common intruders, inhibiting all soldiers and subiects, to aduance themselves in his presence for any suit whatsoeuer: Yet notwithstanding, when a Captain had infringed the edict, and was attatched by the guard to receiue a condigne punishment; the Emperour stepped foorth, and sayd, if hee come for himselfe let him die; if he determine for his friend, let him be released. In like manner doe I ouerthrow this obiection at the first charge, & besides your Lordships apprehension, say plainly, that if I had not bene tyed by the laws of friendship, to expose vnto you the desires of another, I wold not haue diuerted you frō more serious affairs, by my tedious discourse, and ynmannerly importunitie. And thus making no doubt of your worthy and noble disposition toward a man, that doth study nothing, but to loue and honour you, I commit my selfe to that part of your vertue, which can make extention of pardon and fauour, as I haue done of submission and dutie.

Yours, as you will be mine.

To

To her over suspitious Friend.

Good Sir, I am not ignorant, how the Poets haue inuentioned a marriage betweene *Cupid* and *Jealousie*: and true loue is many times seasoned, and made sweeter by prettie contradictions, and softly raised suspition: but to be ouervehement in accusation, and absolutely to conclude a negative by fond supposes and cruell constructions, are beyond my reason, & your faire demeanour. For, be it, I went to the play with my sister, I endured the maske, I danced the measures: I will not much stand vpon the commendations of such customary practise: Yet was there any thing here worthy the traducing? or could a Gentlewoman doe lesse, considering the circumstances and commanding maiestie of the place? But you will obiect, that fancy now settled, and the minde contented with anothers controwle: it was idly done to goe at al. I could say so too; if a mothers well-wishes, a sisters importunitie, a soleinne festiuall, a time of reuels: and aboue all, a presumption of your noble disposition and free hearted discretion, had not mustred themselues farre stronger then my weake denials: wherewith at first I came so forward, that they wondred at my mortification, and sware it was a counterfeit retiring to more dangerous businesse. Besides, I was not (as I take it) vnder any penalty of infringing your will, you not imposing such a taske on me: nor would I be so absolute a slauie, though the name of husband and wife had linked vs together with the Churches ceremonies. Be therefore I pray you satisfied with my iustifiable excuses, and beleue it; I will rather forswear the hopes of mariage, and the glory of costly ornaments, before I will leaue you againe in such an hell of affrighting iealousie.

*Excuse for
keeping com-
pany, and go-
ing to conrs.*

Yours, so you beseaued:

T.

To her jealous Friend.

*Excuse for
taking shel-
ter in a
shower of
rain, with
a strange
gentleman.*

Suspitious Syr: I perceiue that ignorance is many times a mistrisse of quietnes, and too much learning laieth the heart open to leaud example, and idle instances. Thus because you haue read of the Hunting which *Dido* prepared for *Eneas*, and that opportunitie, and a strange accident brought them to an Amorous encounter, in that solitary caue (whither they retired) to auoid the peril of the storme: therefore must I be suspected, for that at the last Hunting I met with *S. G.* in the thicket, and not able then to indure the shower, mounted vp into the stand: If there were no other excuse then necessitie, and the accidentall proffer of ciuill curtesie, me thinkes it might carry credite with vnderstanding: but least I cannot handsomely gather together my forces to satisfie you, I will tell you true: There came both my brother, and his man, to preuent any ouerflowings of a wanton tongue, or idle conference: so that wee were so farre from any occasion of Loues encountering, that we were glad to shake our hattes, and wring our cloathes, for feare of catching colde: yet say, that the accident had preuented other company: hath the opinion of his worth, so ill a ground in your thoughtes, that you can so quickly cast it out from any sound rooting? Or am I such a truand in the schoole of modesty, that you stand in doubt of my loytering, or at least of my insufficiencie, to proue an honest proficient? But I will answer for you, it is loues fault and not yours: and there can be no good will, where many questions arise not to contrarieties: yea, sometimes to distastings, & fallings out: which if it be so, I am contented to offer my Taper, at the altar of his deitie, and hope to finde you the faster hereafter, by letting mee lose a little, and giuing some small liberty to the feare of my losse, and prouing counterfeit.

Yours in her very thoughts.

To

To his worthy Friend, Sir I. D.

SIR, it pleased mee much, that you supposed mee ouer shadowed with the high exalted fauor of such a Queen, who as shee is the mirroure of all ages, for her magnificent gouernmēt: so is she the presidēt of all actions for her vertues & maesticall properties. But withall, you must cōsider the condition of her greatnessse, and the custome of Princes, who doe not allow of too much easinesse in accesse, or facility in subscribing to petitions, for feare of diminishing the glory of their pallaces, and making vs carelesse in our seruice and obseruation. Therefore I pray you bee resolued, that I neglect no opportunitie to inferre your former merit, and present aptnesse to the place, nor found her any way obdurate, more then in her plaine resolution you might tarry a while: As for that imputation, that I was tempted with a thousand angels to speake for D.C. and so bare you in hand to feele *Esans* roughnesse, when yet *Jacobs* voyce was deceitfull: do not beleue it. And let one protestation serue for all, that no man but your selfe shall alter my iourney to her Maiestie: nor any businesse but this set the loome of my industry a worke, till the web of your preuailing be dispatched: or at least, what I can warpe out, made vp accordingly: as for the report, or, if you will, suggestion of your murmuring, that you attended ouer-long, and yet went away not speaking with me: I can assure you, the fault depended not on my greatnessse, or willingness to distast any man, much lesse your selfe, who are as welcome to me as any man: and (if I might speake it without flatterie) in a farther degree of acceptation with me then any man: but meereley the misprision of your person from the groome, that turned the key: who mistaking you for another, which had reviled him, put this poore tricke of

*Excuse for
not dispatch-
ing a suite
of importāce,
according to
expectation
& promise.*

reuenge vpon you to make you beleue, I was busie, when I neither knew of your being without, nor would haue had any businesse, to haue ouerborne my respect toward you if I had knowne it. If this may draw toward a satisfaction, & keep you frō contracting a brow of displeasure against me, I am proud we shall agree, and glad there was occasion of this prety contradiction.

Yours in despight of suspition.

*Excuse for
tarrying too
long from a
wife.*

To his louing wife, B.G.

Mr onely beloved, I am now to deale with a woman, that can spread the mantle both of loue and discretion. Of loue, not to giue way to any sinister and indirect conceit for my tarrying so long from you. Of discretion to apprehend the difficult passages, wherein Court-suters trauele their grounds, and are sometimes like a ship vnder saile, ready to enter the hauen of their desires, driuen farre backe by contrary gusts, into the troublesome and turbulent Ocean of crosses & vnxpected changes. Thus as you haue often told me your selfe, are men sometime protracted, examined, promised, denied, and many times affronted with competitors, whose partisans would gladly preferre their friends before a strangers. But for the giuing raines to any extrauagant and licentious corruption, either for incontinency, gaming, or pleasure, more then what the better sort of men may draw me along vnto by the cords of conuersation, doe not beleue it, though it should bee reported; nor report it, though some vntoward suspition may hasten you to beleefe in this kinde. And thus relying on your wisedome, more then my owne fortunes or good merit, I commend these ciuill excuses to your fauourable construction, and commit that little, which the poore remainder of my discretion hath compassed to your care and gouernment.

Your hnsband resolved.

To his loued louing wife, C.G.

My dearest and best beloved, Although your vnsauorie Excuse for letters are framed on the foundation of vnkindnesse, not dispatch- so that you seeme to iustifie the aduancing the pile of your ing of busines grudges and repinings vpon good occasions inforced: yet I hope by that time I haue filled your eares, and impressed your heart with honest excuses, you will quietly gather together the disperced forces of your care and dutie to afright misreport and sinister vnderstanding. First the concerning the money to be paide to your cousen; I was so far from receiuing it then, that there is no hope euer to haue it hereafter. Concerning the not accompanying your brothers in his suites, and attending with him in the court, you know how vnsauory such a seruitude is vnto the freedome of my spirit; and how vntoward he is in his spleenefull wilfulness, otherwise I wil ride, run, or go, yea lacky by him to doe him good: but to make my selfe seruile vpon euery occasion, and waite on those daies, wherein no busines is determined, cannot stand with policie or discretion. Concerning the not hauing the things from the Mercer, whereby you thinke your selfe more then forgotten, yea forsaken and vilipended; I answer truely, there is but one you know, to the warmth of whose bosome I can repaire, and he being out of towne, I cannot presume on any other: so that forbearance being no quittance, you must bee contented to attend a more thriuing howre. Concerning the sending your sonne ouer, there is no hope of him in any befitting courses of a man. For all

K 2 that

that he practiseth is merely repugnant to vertue, and my willingnesse to see him doe well; As for sauoring martiall affaires, some vnciuill and erronious report hath affrighted him with painfull marches and watchings, hard lying, vnpleasant fare, carelesse regard, (what hunger or sicknesse euer chance:) and aboue all, slight entertainment, with sudden steppings before him, through the fauour of Letters, or Officers, of men inferior to his supposes, and presumption of his owne worth. Therefore I can doe no more, then speake to the Capt: and engage my selfe for his attendance, draw out extraordinary promises of respecting him, & encourage him what I may: but hee being a backe retirer, and pleading insufficiencie of body, I haue left it, without further vexation: howeuer I could for your sake enforce my vnwillingnes; and considering his vnsupportable humors, to set him on foote, to preuailing according to his owne desires.

Your carefull Husband.

*Excuse for
not writing
& attending,
vnwilling
persons to bee
spoken with.*

To his best, and Noble Lady.

Mr best Lady, whereas you wonder at my slacknesse in writing: & attendance of your Father, without complement or ceremonie; I answer both thus: The best letters resemble but the passage of a Shippe, who leaueth behinde no impression of her course; and if they sauour of cumbersomnes, they seem as poyson represented in a golden cup: so that howeuer we entertaine the thing containing, we quickly reiect what may be noysome to the taste, and dangerous to the stomacke: As for my personall performing my dutie; Shall I now walke in a Hall, that was wont to come vp stayres, without controwle? Shall I now be afraide to speake to a groome, who will smile in my face,

face, and bring counterfeit excuses to my sight? Shall I betray my vertue to basenesse, when he is willing to make his greatnes to looke bigge vpon mee? Shall I come to a man ennobled with report, who yet disableth his worth, by a womans malice? Oh, I may not doe so! For though hee can strike away the secrets of friendship with a commanding hand, I may not forget the properties of a man, the libertie of my life, the royltie of my profession: So that till I can recouer my pristine glorie, and iollity of familiaritie, I will submit to these disasters, and make this vnworthy banishment, the author of Contemplation, and triall of affliction: In which, if my prayers ascend like a smoake of a sweete-smelling Sacrifice, I will thanke the God of comfort, for his Fatherly correction; and remeber in the same, that you may flourish in the worlde, like a faire fruitfull Tree, and prosper in your desires: as if *Jacob's* seede did sowe in the Land of *Abimelech*: where hee receiued an hundred for one. As for your Mother, I wish her the blessings of *Rahel* and *Lea*: to be honored of her Husband, reuerenced by her Children, esteemed of her Neighbours, famosed by strangers, respected of Friends, and aboue all, loued of *G O D*; who will neuer leaue to loue such as vnderstand, what true loue importeth.

Yours, though I thinke not.

To his Honourable Friend, Syr G. L.

VWorthy Syr, I am loath to vse a further preamble with you, then may stand in equall poysse with your judgement, and my dutie: yet because I would not seeme too peremptory, in iustifying my selfe, I will confess, that vertue looketh with a more confident aspect, in the maintaining a well gotten possession, then in the first Fortune of kinde embraces: so that I infer according to your own

*Excuse for
not forbea-
ring a friend,
presuming to
disgrace an-
other.*

proposition, that there is more cunning in keeping, then getting a Friend. But withall, if a Friend will so presume on the weaknessse of another, to tye him ouer-strictly to obseruation, or burden him with intollerable impositions, because there hath passed vpon him some descendings of gratuities: I see no reason to curbe his manhood, or libertie in such a fashion: especially, if the standers by be ignorant of their combination, or iealous that hee is subiect to some maligne circumstances of Fortune or Time: and thus much in generall. Now to the particulars: As you wonder at my repugnancie, and absolute contradicting your arguments in the last conference: I maruell that you would so apparantly maintaine such a *Paradox*: and amongst all the rest, draw mee into the circle of wrastling with our wittes, whereby either I must cowardly leaue poore truth in the hands of venomous, and corrupted *Sophistrie*: or fearfully bring my preuailing forces forward, to foyle your vnderstanding & iudgement; whereby, in the contention, friends must needs fall out: wheras you wonder that I would hazard your loue, by so sudden a deniali, of such an easie commaund, wherein better and greater Friends neuer disputed.

I maruell why you should at that time, aboue all others, and before such persons, burst out to shewe your greatness and power ouer mee, or discouer my weaknessse, onely to be insulted on, when you had attendants of your owne for seruile busynesse; or might haue made some groome an actor in the same, to preuent all exceptions? Otherwise I sweare for honourable purposes, when the whole bodie shuld be exposed to your seruice, I would not haue denyed the Legges from going of an errand into the Kitchin for you. Wheras you wonder that I departed discontented, without ceremony, or making you once acquainted, when

all

all the companie wished mee well , and expected a conclusion of the discourse. I maruell both at your putting mee to it, before such curious eares, and solid iudgements, and at the strange entertainmēt of a man, whom you know could not looke vpon mee, but with Basiliskes eyes : nor I endure him, without dislike and discontent. Therefore to preuent yntoward disturbance, and to scatter my iegalouſie abroad, least it should gather a head of assurance; that you did it of purpose; I left you to murmur at my vnmannerlines, but pleased my ſelfe in a ſuppoſed preuention of further mischiefe. Thus, if these ſad lines haue better fortune then their maister, it may be you wil admit of them as excusatory, and of mee in them, as willing to please you in noble and iuftifiable actions.

Your ſeruant and assured.

To his ſuddenly diſpleased Friend.

Good Syr ; you ſaw at the beginning, that the diuell was *Excuse for* ſo eniuious of mans felicity, that hee neuer defifted, till *not beeing* the bands of his firſt contract were diſſolued, & the hope *Surety for* of ſaluation abandoned : and ſo hath hee continued euer *a Friend*. ſince, as an aduersary to all goodnes, and vertuous diſpoſitions ; whereof (euen at this iſtant) I am a poore witnes, and in this foyle , which our friendſhip is likely to receiue an vnhappy iſtance : elſe could not you haue demanded the onely thing I haue forſworne : nay, am legally bound to take heede of : nor I haue denied you any thing which might ſeem diſſonāt to our contract: ſo that I request you, with tears (if a man can ſhed them without ridiculousnes) make triall of mee, if it ſtood with the ſecrets of our loue, in any thing (Surety-ſhip excepted,) commaund my perſon, rifle my goods, pawne my Leaſes, open my purſe, and take whatſoever I call mine : but to drawe mee and

and my posteritic into the terror of bondage : Nay, to fasten, and (as it were) to sigillate, and affixe vs to the vnmercifulnesse of men, and crueltie of Cut-throats, is so terrible to a poore estate, that I start at the naming of a Statute, and am afraide of mine owne shadowe, least my hand should bee counterfeit. For, I haue knowne the debt discharged, and for want of honesty in soime, & cuning in others, to cancell the Recogynsance, a new enfor- mation hath made a hurliburly in the family : and the Law hath claimed for the *Prince*, against all prescription of time, & releases of men : because the record was a liuing voyce: and ecchoed out, you must discharge the debt againe : Therfore I request you, let not this denyall make any breach against the fortification of our loue: nor let the banks of out friendship bee so slightly cast vp, that so small an Inundation shall eyther overflowe the same, or burst downe with violence , that which we once presumed was strong enough against most impetuous shoudrings, ey- ther of Riuers, or Seas.

Yours, when you commaund.

*Excuse for
not entertain-
ing a friend,
as hee ought
to bee.*

To his well resolued Friend.

Good Syr; let it not seeme strange vnto you, that I nei- ther durst bidde you welcome: nor open my mouth with so pleasing a voyce as the harmonie of our hearts was wont to tune together. For you know I am subiect to an others controwll, and this name of a seruant, hath in me ouermastered the condition of a Friend : so that I can but curse the occasion, when first my *Lord* let in an ill opinion of your worth, into the closet of his former affection, and blame that ominous night of feasting, which ended so mischieuously, to distast you both: but I hope time will ey- ther weaken these inflictions, or your faire demeanor work vpon

Upon a better Anuile of constancy, and regard of vertuous noblenes in you both; so that I shall performe the part of a Friend, in working your reconciliation: and you the part of a wise man, in giuing way vnto so me humors, that otherwise might confound all our quietnes. Be therefore (I pray you) your selfe, and pardon me a while: if my dutie to him restrain me a little, from running too violently in the race of our friendship: otherwise bee assured, that no other restraint could keepe mee from flying into your armes, and prostrating my selfe to your second commaund in any thing.

Yours when mine owne.

To his well deserving Friend.

Most deare Friend: If I could preuent my disgraces, as well as I can excuse my bad disposition, you should neither complaine, nor I bee terrified with feare of my vt-rer ruine: therefore I pray you bee satisfied with this assurred confidence of my loue, that I neither opposed to your brothers peremptoriness, out of any pride of my owne, or willingnes to ouer-thwart him: nor crossed your mother in her peeuiish insultings ouer my decayed estate, from any preiudicated malice, or desire of contradiction: but merely to countenance the cause of vertue, and establish the right of truth: Therefore I pray you consider of mee, and as you werewont, maintaine that olde goodnes which hath made you famous to all well-willers, and mee happie in your worthines and kindnesse. For to come to particulars, who could haue sworne, that vertue was feeldom or neuer innated in a poore person, or of mean condition: if he had said, it was little esteemed, as the wise man maintaineth, that wisdome in a poore man, maketh a slender oratory, it had carried some reasonable colour of argument: but to discharge it quite from the seruice of in-

*Excuse for
not soothing
up of humors.*

ferior persons, is meerly swellings of pride, contempt, and filthy desires. Again, wheras your mother resolued that no estimation could arise to any man, but frō an aggeration of wealth, and raising his Fortunes from land and great estates, I had reason to sweare they were both base & corrupt positions, from ignoble and degenerating burslings out of frailty: So that howeuer the duties of a childe may restrain you frō publike condemning your mothers wilfull esteeming of the world, before religion, or a brothers pitiful opinion of true vertue indeed: I hope you know better how to raise vp the frame of goodnes, & whē it is raised, to keepe the possession against all dismeasures, or intrusions of sinne and wickednes.

Yours assured.

Requesting Letters

To his honourable Lord: The L. C.

*A request to
requite a
discurtesie.*

Right Honourable, In those poeticall fictions, such were the prerogatiues of deitie, that whatsoeuer one god confirmed, no other would disallow: nor by any contradictory courses, weaken the reuerēce due to their sufficiencie. So that if *Teresias* were striken blinde, there was no restorēing of his eyes, howeuer hee might be helped with the gift of diuination. If *Jupiter* giue again the sight to *January*, (as in *Chaucers Tale*) to discouer his wiues incontinēcie, *Juno* could quicken her spirits to such a wittie answer, as might pacifie all indignation: and so in diuers other particulars, from whence I recollect thus much in this ciuill administration of *Common-wealtheſ*: that when the Law hath had a passage from authoritie, there is no stopping it by a subiects hand, howeuer the prerogatiue of a Prince may contermand the same, in another kinde: Therefore my Honourable Lord, I dare not attempt so farre, that you shuld overthrow the verdict against me, or by ſinifer course of greatnes, wret aside the penaltie inflicted, but humblie request

you

you to raise as great a punishment on my aduersarie, by reason of his wilfull abusing your *Honour*: and mee your poore seruant, and tenant, as may answer in proportion my forfeiture, and oppose against his malicious inclination to ouerthrow my poore estate. And whereas these trialls in Lawe are meere distractions both of our peace and purses: you will giue him this notice, that except hee condiscend to faire conditions of agreement, you will open a larger flood of displeasure against him, considering the circumstances. For truely my good Lord, hee beganne with mee, as that wicked man in the Gospell, who, when infinit summes were remitted him, notwithstanding ranne and tooke his fellow by the throate, and most cruelly demaunded 500. pence: These things I leauue to your particular consideration, and am resolute to relie more on your wisedome, in the managing the same, then my Fortunes, in ouercomming the affliction. *Your Honors in respective duty.*

To his honorable Friend, Syr D.L.

Noble Syr: Howeuer there hath lurked some dangerous poyson of incombrance, vnder the tufted green-grasse of ciuill complement, and other protestations: yet I was neuer an absolute and apparent beggar till now, nor had thought to haue stepped so rudely, as to presse your curtesie. Therefore I request you, lay the blame on necesstie, and pardon this eruption of ill manners: but withall, so farre to consider my businesse, that these lincs remaine vncancelled, & my suite be not tripped down, in the first setting forward. For (*good Syr*) if you vouchsafe not to sendme x. ll, as wel to defray the charges of the suit, as to helpe toward the paimet of the other debt, I shall not only lose the benefit of our first proceedings, but endanger my poore estate, which beeing a morgage, hath a time of forfeiture annexed, and day of terror couenant in the Articles.

A friendly request for money.

So that I cannot compare my selfe better then to a man holding the Wolfe by the eare, which if he pull hard, hee is bitten: if hee let go, he is in danger of further mischiefe. Therefore I request you, hold vp so far an aduancing hand of supportation, that I may wade through the current of these troubles, and land on the banke of securitie and contentment: which, for that it is not to bee effected without your assistance, I am the bolder to make you beleue (as it is indeed) it is a worke both glorious and charitable.

Your expectable friend.

A request for
the entertain-
ing of a
daughter.

To her much esteemed good Lady.

Good Ladie, I desire not willingly to deale with you, as iealous husbands with their wiues, who commonly looke for that they would not find: So that if I should suspitiously make triall of your many worthy promises, and finde them Court vapours, or formall protestations, it would prooue an vnsauory search, and dull my desires in their forwardnesse toward you. Therefore I will proceed more confidently, and frame my request on the iustifiableness of the motion, and the worthinesse of your merite. I beseech you therefore good Lady, take this poore gentlewoman by the hand, my onely daughter, and settle her in the schoole of obseruation, that shee may looke toward you, as the eyes of *Dauids* handmaid; and toward her selfe as that good seruant, that doubled his talents; to which purpose I haue instructed her with a mothers loue, and a womans experience; wherein I hope she will proceed rather for the loue of vertue, then feare of displeasure. But good Lady, withall, I humbly request you, that she may be orderly led to the sight of her errors, and know with what face displeasure can looke when she doth amisse, especially in the desire of liberty, or acquaintance with wantonnes,

two

two such dangerous gulphs, that I haue seen very tall and
well built ships swallowed in their whirlings: and there-
fore I haue reason to feare so slender a barke, and ill prouided,
as she is. Besides, there are some things, wherein ig-
norance hath a priuiledge: For man was neuer vnhappy,
but in the knowledge of good and euill: not that there is a-
ny harme in vnderstanding to doe well, and auoyd the mis-
chiefe of practising ill: But because we are rather prone to
vice then goodnesse, and (quickly seduced) runne vio-
lently into the breake-necke race of precipitant iniqui-
tie. My last request is, that you will pardon my presump-
tion, and impute it rather to the confidence of your worth
then my owne bad disposition: and so emboldned accord-
ingly, I leaue her and my selfe to those vertues, that can
beare imperfections, & regard our dutifull seruice toward
you.

Your Ladiships in all impositions.

To his Honourable Lord.

HOnourable Lord, Among all the blessings afforded man in this world, none may equall mutuall societie, nor come neare the beautifull motions of worthy neighbour-hood, and friendship: and of this I am an instance, and may well resemble diuers trees and plants which prosper the better, when the cunning gardner hath rooted by them, such kinde of fruits and hearbes, as in nature they desire, and in growing aduance their heads in iollity. For as Phylosophers affirmie, all things are distinguished and gouerned by *Sympathy* and *Antipathy*. This made me affect the place, wherein (as a poore tenant, Gentleman, and neighbour) I would willingly doe you such seruice, as befitteth my condition and quality to yeeld vnto: and your honour and grauity to command. I humbly therefore request you,

A request for
assurance
of a farme,

that I may haue some certayne assurance of the farme in possession, as you haue frō me of my best loue, & then (no doubt) I shall with chearefulnessse and sufficiency make my approches in such manner, that you shall neither be afraid of combersomnesse, nor I ashamed of any desparagement. But withall, I (againe and againe) desire, that you subiect me not to inferior groomes, and tie me to so strict a behaviour, as that the falling of a tree, the plashing of a hedge, the killing of a Partridge, & such like accidental occasions, draw my actions within your seruants censuring, or indirect information of busie bodies. And thus with a submissiue resolution to loue and honour you, I commit you to his hands that can adde to your merits, honor vpō honor, and make me happy in the fulnesse of your opinion, and your noble respect, according to that I shall indeauour to deserue.

Your Honours humbled.

To his leuing Friend, Mr. G. M.

A requestio
ferbeare a
acct.

SIR, I dare not ouer-guild with quaint tearmes, and rhetorical Phrases (though I had such a prerogative by nature) my sute vnto you at this instant, lest you grow suspitious of some bad inclination, and secret cunning in crying with the Lapwing furthest from her nest; that is, making a shew of one thing, and determining another. Therefore I will plainly desire you to forbear the debt another yeare, that I may with a more cheereful looke consider the spots and staines of my durty face, and so at leisure make it cleane, or with a stronger arme cast it lightly from my shoulders, when I shall haue time to rest my self; and prepare to stand firmly vnder the loade: otherwise, I may fail in making too much haste, and besmeere me the more in attempting with a foule & filthy clout, rashly

to

to purifie me. Hencin likewise you shall shew your selfe
free from hard and griping exaction, wherein diuers vsu-
rers are compared to *Harpies*, who neuer seize on any
thing, which they let goe without carrying something a-
way; nor ouermaster at all, where they doe not vtterly de-
stroy. Besides, I shall proclaime you a charitable Gentle-
man, and enlarge my wishes for your prosperity, as you
tie me to loue and respect you for so vndeseruing a curte-
sie.

Yours, if you be not offended.

To her unkind Friend.

Good Sir, Howeuer these dangerous practises of yours
may be at the best veiled ouer with excuse of trials, &
as it were touchstones of my constancy: yet I pray you
deale not with me, as som strange Physitions do with their
patients, who, because they find the body strong and well
composed to some endurances, will therfore adde violent
potions, and raging poisons to their receipts: and so per-
aduenture to see you visited of friends, accustomed to ci-
uill conuersation, courting of Ladies, and affording plea-
sant changes, as time and place requireth: I can passe ouer
as things of course, and make my heart beleue, there is
no perill in such aduenture, nor hazzard of true loue in cir-
cumstances: but to heare, that you daily conuerse with that
fantasticall Lady, whose eyes are nets to intrap wiser men,
and whose hands haue with the Spiders web wouen twi-
sted threds to tie the rouing fancy to straiter admirations:
concerning her beauty: of stronger & more wary men then
your selfe: I cannot endure, nor will afford my opinion of
you, so strong a presumption, that you can come away
vnsnared or vncorrupted with allurement. Therefore I
humbly request you, if not for loue, yet for pitties sake,
leauie me not in this suspition, nor throw me so violently

*A request to
forbeare a
dangerous
Ladies company.*

into

into the turbulent sea of icaloufie. Fot I am a poore slender barke, and built for shallow waters: no man of Warre, nor high decked ship to endure all winde and weather. I am a slender reede placed in lower grounds to auoyd the boysterous pusses that assaile the highest mountaines: no Cedar of *Lebanon*, to aduance my head against all menacing stormes and tempests: I am a true hearted louer, who can be contented with onely one honest man, and haue taught my soule a lesson of beleefe, that you are master of your selfe, and a conqueror of affection; nay a follower of truth, and good remembrance concerning our contracts and mariage. To what end then doe you affright me with these indirect straglings abroad, and set my patience on the tainter-hooks of cruell expeeting your returne, and how you will reason the matter to pacifie this displeasure? Well, I pray you bee a little more reposed, and take some sodaine course to come and satisfie me better: otherwise I will not beleue, but you wish an alteration, and I must prepare for some pittifull, either change or distresse.

yours and yet displeased.

To his Honourable good Lord, and Patron.

A request to be charitable. **R**ight Honourable, I am very vnwilling to make a pernicious mixture of diuine precepts, and ciuill introducments; for feare I shuld not with sufficient reuerence settle my selfe, and prepare you to heare the same: otherwise, I could with Saint *Paul* to *Agrippa*, demand, whether you belieue the Scriptures: and answer for you, that I know you doe beleue them: and out of them can collect thus much; that by mercy we approch to God, and from compassion are led to the barre of acceptation with the diuine Maiestie. This made Saint *Paul* write to *Philemon*, to pardon the misled seruant, and soundeth out the tyme of charity, as the

the sweetest note in all the Scriptures: and this hath incited me to request your Honor to come as freely forward to the remission of my friend, as you can; and once againe admit him vnder the couert of your fauour, and good opinion: For I know his hart is not onely impressed, with an acknowledgement of his fault, but (as it were) cast in a new mould to amend his life, and entertaine a true conuersion into the new built house of his conscience. Therfore, good my Lord, I beseech you againe for him, that he be not oppressed with despaire, and so cast downe on the bed of affliction irrecouerably: and againe and againe, for my selfe, that I bring him not worser tidings of your displeasure toward me, for vrging you beyond either my duty, or your owne will and worth. But I am perswaded, that so great a blood and generous mind will not looke with a tyrannous brow vpon such submission: nor greatnesse proue implacable, where humilitie is suppliant. In which confidence, I leaue your honour to a noble consideration of vs both, and worthy acknowledgement of many apparent benefits.

Your honors in all duetie.

To the Honourable Colonel, Sir F.P.

Worthy Sir, Although martiall men naturally affect not either complement or rhetorickall ampliation, as knowing that wisedome it selfe is sometimes vnseasonable: yet hauing good experience of your owne sufficiency many waies: and remembred a noble speech concerning the commendation of (M.R.) whose onely oratory, and eloquent perswasion, kept the troops whole together, and reunited the dispersed forces flying away, whereby those vnexpected sallies of our strong enemy were defeated, and a new life infused into our souldiers fainting courages; I am now the bolder to present this worthy Gentle-

*A request to
admit a sol-
ler for a sol-
dier.*

man & scholler vnto you, in whom a great spirite, and true desire of honor hath preuailed against industry, & peaceable addiction to ciuill imployment: so that if he proue as good a proficient in this martiall schoole, as he hath done in the exercises of seuerall Artes, I make no doubt, that as a double Band bindes stronger then a single, so shall hee giue that harshnes of a soldier, a further lustre: & besides, a generall good to his countrey, by such endeuors, gaine a particular grace from your self, for well applying such gifts as nature hath admitted him to receyue out of her chiefeſt ſtore-houſe. Thus much emboldened from the ſecrets of our former friendſhip, and the merit of this my kinſeman; whome I am ſo well perfwaded of. I commit you to his hands that hath helped your hands to reach at honor: and and commend our ſelues to your good conſideration, of ſo reasonable a request.

Yours, ſworne to worthines.

To his right Honourable Lord.

For the
knighting
a friendly &
worthy Gent:

Right Honorable Lord, I would be loath to open any enclosure of ridiculous follie, or dangerous ambition, in the prosecution of of my ſuit, and iuftifiable request, for the Knighting of M.G.S. conſidering many captious tongues, and enuious eyes, are buſied on the Theater of the world, to prye into the demeanors of men, and burst out with calumnia, againſt the leaſt imperfection: ſo that if a man ſtand not vpright indeed, vpon the ſure frame of proſperitie, and good opinion: a poore vertue ſhall be eaſily ſhouldred aside, and quiet ſpirit made the Tenis-ball of boysterous contempt, which commonly laugheth men to ſcorne with vilipending, not for any inſufficiencie in the other:

but

but because idlenesse and presumptuous conceits runne at random without controwle in themselues. Thus might I be terrified, because I haue heard some make a Tush at the motion, and knowe others ouer-daring to traduce him in priuate, and yet touched to the triall, disclaiming the least conceit of mislike.

But if it please your Honour to bee your selfe, and recollect your owne memory, I hope you will answere for vs both: For my selfe, that being my friend, and such a friend into whose bosom (when I shuvered for colde,) I haue shrowded my selfe for warmthe: I could doe little, if I would not preferre so easie a petition, to so noble a Lord, and such, as had brought mee long since, out of the narrow entrie of suspition, to a manifest confidence of loue, and tyed his honour to the performance of a greater matter for my sake. Concerning him, he is in blood, so generous, that his grandfather was the thirteenth Knight of his Familie: in reuenues so enriched, that hee may improue his liuing, when he will, to an 1200. poûds a yeare, in stock so plentifull, that a 1000. pounds cannot counter-poise the same: in iudgement so reposed, that howeuer his great enemie hath kept him from beeing Commissioner: yet hath hee ended divers contentions amongst his Neighbours, and regained the best opinion: in demeanour so delicate, that his house seemeth a well ordered and furnished Pallace, and his Stable, a store-house of excellent and well appointed horses: in conuersation, so pleasing, that the best Ladies haue taken paines to revisite him, and went away with admiration rather then satisfaction: and in eloquence so facet, that though he haue not bin a traueller, or souldiour: yet can he dispute of both, and ouer-beare a good resolution, to confirme it in either.

All which being considered, I make no doubt but I

haue reason to inferre the same: he is worthy to be remembred with the immunitiess of his ancestors: and your Honour so respectiue, that neither flattery nor detractiō shall pull vs within the danger of your displeasure: And for the maine point, which is disbursement of money, hee hath sworne the contrary, and is not determined to spend your friendship so mercinarily; because hee can so dispatch it by meaner men, meaner trouble, and a meaner account, or giuing reckoning of his fortunes.

Your Honors, as you can devise.

To her highly respected Friend, Sir T.B.

*For to defend
a widow gen-
tlewoman in
her right a-
gainst all
wrong & ca-
lumniaion.*

HOnourable Sir, I haue read, or at least, giuen eare vnto other folkes reading, that in ancient times, when honor and armes were mounted on a thronē of estimation, there was a military oth prescribed to souldiers & knights with diuers limitations: amongst which, repulsing of iniuries, and defending of Ladies were principall; & truely if a woman might bee admitted vnto a court of warre, mo thinketh it was necessarie and honourable. For what is vertue, but a naturall inclination to charitable actions, and noble resolutions? and how dare a Gentleman take vpon him the title of **Chiualry**, that will defile his heart with malicious and dangerous reuenges, open his mouth to vndescent speeches and filthy opprobry, stretch his hands to entertaine fury and reuenge; yea frame the whole course of his life, either to a bestiall liberty, or barbarous doing of iniury? Therefore Noble *Sir*, remember your selfe, and from whence you are extracted, neere in alliance to me, and one, on whom I haue leaned for sup- portation, and relied in all these eruptions of misfortune. Remember mee a poore Gentlewoman, a widdow in di- stresse, and groaning vnder the heauy and cruell hand of

a great

a great and mercilesse aduersary. Remember the cause, that it is vertues, the defence of chastity, and keeping vs al from penury and wants; and remember my aduersary, that he is mereley malicious; and because he could not obtaine, what he vnlawfully desired, hee now soundeth out no note but reuenge: and sweareth he wil make me repent, that I either denied, or contested with him. Therefore deare *sir*, let me flie to you for refuge, and as farre as true manhood may auoyd the imputation of quarrels, and dangerous blood-shedding, cling to your side vnder the shield of your noble protection: wherin I will desire you to proceed no further, then by petition to my *H.G.* and orderly attendance on the high Commissioners: And this I take both waies to be iustifiable, and assure my selfe, this you would doe for a stranger, that had not estranged her selfe from good demeanour, and faire courses of a vertuous inclination.

Yours, and sworne to be so.

To his Honourable good Friend; L.

HOnourable *sir*, I would not now resemble the fish *Cœpia*, which cast into any water troubles the same; nor be compared in my importunity to your Court tapers, which burne out themselues to pleasure others: so that in pleading thus in my friends behalfe, I may peraduenture doe him no good, and yet spend the splendor of your worthy loue to as little purpose concerning my selfe. But presuming still to finde you more and more generous, as you more and more approch vnto honour and dignitie, I am the bolder to expose vnto you the honest request of Master *H.* and make it the marke of my aime, wherein if I *ca* come but so neare as your kind acceptation vpon those

A friend entreateth for an office, for another.

conditions, which in a manner you gaue life vnto: I shall then thinke my selfe much bound vnto you, because of many blessings cast into my lap at once by that meanes: as the confirmation of your loue and regard, the gratuitie of two hundred pound besides the summe appointed for you: the discharge of the dutie of a friend; the answering certaine friuolous obiections against my credit: the corroboration of his good opinion and neighbourhood: the assured establishment of his alliance, and the preferring of true vertue and desert to noble and orderly entertainement. For I can assure you, hee is not onely worthy of the place, but extraordinarily quallified to moue (like a faire Planet) in his owne Orbe for sufficiencie. Besides, when he knowes it is your pleasure to admit him to more priuate familiaritie; you shall finde him repos'd in iudgement, quicke in conceit, witty in discourse, pleasant in conuersation, and, aboue all, a louer of vertue, and ciuill in all his actions. Therefore I haue reason to plead in so good a cause, and for your sake in some sort am proude, that I haue such interest in the businesse: whereby if you nobly consent to dispatch, then shall you double the fauour, and make vs both obliged vnto you for euer. For, as in harsh and vnpleasant newes, a quicke deliuery easeth much the heart, which otherwise would weary with expectation. So in allgood turnes, a timely sending forth, makes the benefits gratiouis, & the benefactor to resemble a sweet swelling spring to a thirsty soule.

Yours, if you thinke me worthy.

To her assured friend.

Good Sir, Common experience hath brought women into the field of this knowledge, that it is an easie task to giue good counsell, and priuate trials of your great vnderstanding hath assured me, that you know when to aduise your friend; with all the other circumstances of place and persons: whereupon I am now inforced to ouer-burden you with petitions, and make one request for all, that you deny not the best directions, though I seeme to examine you on particulars. I pray you then consider on the assurance of my dowry, and whether it be not prejudiciale to my estate, if in surrendring I make a change for the manor of F. which may bee for any thing I know subiect to some encombrances. Secondly, remember the conuiance of those lands for my daughters portions, and yonger sonnes annuities: and I pray you be carefull that the pleading of our selues in present times, endamage not the Orphants in future changes. Thirdly, send me word, what enquiry you haue made of Sir G. P. who would make me beeleeue, a second mariage cannot bee prejudiciale to my fortunes, and may adde to my comfort and augmentation of estate mutuall society of a worthy husband, and settled prosperitie, when the minde is contented, and a woman satisfied in her last desires. Fourthly, let your former care I pray you extend thus farre, that this secret enemy to the thriuing of all Gentlemen (10. in the 100.) doe not steale vpon vs like a priuy thiefe, & carry such a maistring had ouer our prosperity, that we bee not able to eate meat in good order, nor hold vp a cheerfull face of entertainment, as we were accustomed: and last of all, that my rents may bee duly

*For advice in
matters of
difficulty.*

duely sent vp, and wirhout further trouble or danger, then the stewards fee, & the tenāts dinner, not that I wold enter into any league with couetousnes, or sparing, but because I would leaue no president of encumbering my Children, nor their presumption to claime an vnbefitting priuiledge. Thus as farre as I am beholding to remembrance, I haue patched together (as you see) my requests, and make no doubt but you will accordingly, endeuor to continue my assured Friend, as I resolute to bee your well-willer in any thing to my power.

Yours, relying on your advise.

Gratulatory Letters.

To her carefull Friend, M. S. H.

*A thanke-
fulnes for a
daughters
good bringing
vp, & good
bestowing.*

Vorthy Syr: I perceiue by you, that custome is as great a preseruatiue of vertue, as furtherer of vice: For as in abuses, it oftentimes falles out, that those sinnes, which at first we were afraide to touch, we afterward make a pastime to handle: so in worthy proceedings, a continuall progression maketh the race so pleasant, that a generous man walketh in no other tract, nor practiseth other actions then noble and heroicall.

Thus haue you begun with friendship to the Father, settled regard toward the mother, continued with care to the daughter, and put charity on her best wings, to flye for vs all: Thus haue you remembred a dying friend, supported a distressed Widow, relieved a succourlesse Virgin, and taught farre more neerer kindred a lesson of true charitie: Nay, thus haue you holpe the fatherlesse, defended the innocent, raised vp the fainting soule, and loued vertue, for vertues sake: so that my poore childe may thinke her selfe happy to be borne in such an houre, when you were a witnessse of the same; and I blesse the time in which I obtained

tained your fauor to christen her. But is this sufficient? or shall I thanke you recompence such an inestimable benefite? I confesse it cannot: considering you haue not onely prouided for her infancie, ouer-watched her childe-hood, instructed her youth, taught her good manners, and brought her out of the darknesse of ignorance, to the light of vnderstanding: but haue also made it the worke of your owne hands, to marrie her to a worthy Husband; as if therein lay the secret of all businesse, and that it were the perclot of cache action: Therefore, as a small aduantage, I adde the publike acknowledging of the same, and the continuall presenting our selues and endeuors to your acccptation; wherein I am the rather emboldned, because I hope I haue encountered with such a man, that did not so much glory in the pleasuring of vs, as reioyce in bringing his owne good purposes to perfection.

Your true obseruant.

To his Honourable Friend.

VOrthy Syr, Amongst many others, *Martiall* hath a pretty *Epigram* against an hypocriticall *Macenas* of learning: who, when a reasonable *Poeme* was presented vnto him, accepted the same, but returned the author without recompence: which when *Martiall* perceiued was a tricke of couetousnes and bad disposition: hee called him couenser, and vrged the reason; hee said, hee had cheated him of his Time, labour, wit, spirits, and passion: For how could a poore Scholler but repine at the miferie, and curse the occasion, that had preuented him from a further benefit else-where? But on my soule: you were not affrighted with this: For I haue knowne you reuite the writing of a Letter, and when you rendered great recom-

*A thank ful-
nes for recom-
pencing the
giving of a
Booke.*

N pence

pence for a small kindnesse, I haue heard you say :

Sic paruis componere magna solebam.

As for my poore businesse : I wondered at your profusenes, and thought it a donatiue from heauen : and when I was telling of three pound, for three sheetes of paper, I suspected my selfe for dreaming, till a creditor came in, and not onely awaked my feares, with assurance it was golde: but was contented to take the most part of it away, in part of payment of a greater summe.

Thus from your Noble bountie was I releued, a debt payed, your Honour divulgued, a good example discouered, and all of vs assisted : And thus must I sweare you worthie of all worth, and bee my selfe proud, that euer I knewe your name, and participated of your good condicsons : wherein (I hope) as a *Magnes*, you will draw others to imitation, and teach me to take out a new lesson of loue, dutie, and obedience, toward you.

Yours, as you haue restored him.

To the right Honourable Lord. L.

*A thanke-
fullnes for an
office.*

Most Honorable Lord, As often as I was comforted with the glorious sight of golde, so often must I needes remember your Honour, but when I make vse of the same, to worthy purpose, I blesse the cause, and pray the giuer of all blessings, to establish you as firmly, as wishes and worldly meanes can contrive. Oh what a difference is there betweene wants, and abundance, betweene preferment, and standing at a stay, betweene imployment, and idlenesse ? whereas before I walked vnre-garded, now I sitte at ease admyred ; and how euer the heart, is

is corrupted, I am sure of an obsequious ceremony, and cheerefull countenance; where as before I was scarce welcommed to any, I am now entertained of all; and in steed of fretting my selfe for lacke of presents to giue my friends, am now made cheerefull with many gratuities, euen from my enemies: whereas before I could not prevent necessities with great paines taking, and trouble, I now supply euen wantonnes with cheeresfulnes and pleasures. So that the feare is as great to be corrupted with felicitie, as the vexation was greeuous to be tormented with aduersitie:whereas before my sonnes were affraide to bee called the children of a beggerly Gentleman, and the daughters sequestred themselues for want of outward ornaments, the boyes dare now florish with the best fashion; and the girles take vpon them to demand, what liuings shall equall their dowry:and all this heate commeth from the Sun-shine of your fauours;all this glorie from the raies of our regard; all these riuulets of spreading graces, from the sweetning spring of your effectuall loue toward me:so that as I liue I am beholding to nature, but as I liue well, I am beholding to you, and (the highest onely excepted) none but you, nor will acknowledge any vholder of my state but your selfe, while I liue.

Yours, howeuer establisched.

*To the worthy of Honourable titles,
Sir F. H.*

Noble Sir, I perceiue that vertue and discretion is so predominant with you, that ycu keepe equall correspondencie in all things. For as I walked in your orchard, I saw a yong tree scarcely rooted, and doubly defenced for feare *A thankefulnes for defend-
ing one a-
gainst a great
of aduersary.*

of a shaking wind, and boisterous shouldring of carelesse
commers and goers; whereby I remembred my selfe and
businesse, and when I recounted, that in my last presump-
tion by plunging my selfe into a turbulent sea, (that is, in
aduenturing to contend with my great and malicious ad-
uersary). I was readie to sinke vnder water, had not your
stretched out arme held my head vpright: I blessed heauen
for sending such succor; I blessed you for taking such com-
passion; I blessed the cause that thriued so wel; and I blessed
my selfe, that had obtained such fauour; so that I must
not onely be thankefull for the same: but i request the per-
seuerance to your continuall glory. Oh how happy is hee
that runneth well: but ten times more happy, that obtains
the reward. The good desires of men haue some allow-
ance, their charitable actions great estimation, their noble
beginnings warrantable hopes; but a constant resolution
and perseuerance assurance of felicity. Therefore (wor-
thy Sir) as much for your owne honour, as my good, I
humbly request you to consider still of mee, and as you
holpe me out of a dangerous tempest, so now vouchsafe to
pull me out of a raging fire: not that I would haue any con-
turnacy in me abetted by your greatnessse; but see true no-
blenesse in you spring vp to the eminentest height. For,
Sir G. threatneth further, and when he was not to be an-
swered, told me in publicke, that neither I, nor my Cham-
pion should cary it away, as we presumed. But, good Sir,
you pleade for vertue and innocency, and therefore I know
will not be out-dared; with power made wilfull by pecuishes-
nesse, in which confidence I will neither accumulate your
praises, nor flatter my well deseruing; but settle my resolu-
tion, to desire nothing at your hands, which is vniustifiable;
nor despaire of any thing, which your loue to mee, and re-
gard of the iustnesse of the cause, may contrive.

Yours resolued.

To

To the Honourable Lady, M.

Most worthily honored, when David gaue only care vnto Zibas complaint, lame Mephibosheth was wronged, and halfe his land was giuen to a Parasite: which made Salomon more cautelous, and from his fathers vniust proceeding in this kinde, preuented the calumnyation in himself: and so admitting the harlots face to face, decided the controuersie for the liuing child. So that it cannot choose but that you haue thrived in searching the Scriptures, and made vse of the same to your eternall comfort. For which I thanke you; and beleue it, it was nobly done, both to send my accuser away without entertainment, and not condemne mee for any triuiall enforcement before you heard my iustifications. Why (my best Lady) you know, and many better men, then he, haue told you, that I am so farre from wronging you with a falshood, that I haue maintained your honor against any, as farre as truth would giue me leaue: when (as the time was) that you gaue mee cause to distast your vnkindnesse; I would not permit another to whisper against your iniustice: Nay more, when I was threatned for being a supporter of your disobedience, I plunged my selfe into a gulph of troubles, to keepe you from falling into the danger. Therefore I pray you continue your owne worthines, and good opinion toward me. For howeuer out of passion I may suspect my thriving in your estimatimon; beleue it, out of iudgement, and the true dutie of loue and friendship, I will not suffer any other to traduce you.

*A thankeful-
nes for not be-
leaving a fals
report.*

Yours, onely to be commanded.

To her well esteemed Friend.

*A thankeful-
nesse for len-
ding of mony.*

Mr dearest Friend, Although I am a woman, & should rather busie my self with housshold affaires, wherin a good wife is resembled to a wel manured ground, yeelding increase to a rich aduantage. Yet can I not choose but hear of many discourses, especially touching thriuing busynesse, whereby friendship hath bene maintained in the lending of money, for which great recompence hath beene made by interest and other gratuities: so that now we do not dispute of the vnlawfulness of vsury, but suppose him well satisfied, that can haue money lent him at any reasonable rate: which seeing necessity and corruption of time hath brought so to passe, Oh how blessed was that occasion! how happy were those steps? how fortunat was that houre? how carefull was that Genius? and how compassionate was that ouerwatching eye, that brought you to my house? whereby you did not onely heare my complaints, commiserate my griefe, releue my wants, and cheared me in discomfor: but lent me mony; and how much? 500. marke, and how long? without limitation: & vpon what securitie? my honest word, & my seruants bond: & wherfore? gratis, without a pennie vsurie or augmentation of profit. O rare and worthy example! more fitter for Fames golden Clariion to eccho in the world for admiration, then a sillie womans thankefulness to acknowledge to her friends of necessitie. So that beleue it, if praiers could preuaile by ceremonie, I would not onely kneele, but kneele so long as I could, till God had heard my request to grant you your desires. Nay I would hold vp my hands and mine eies, and lift vp my heart and all, and neuer leaue looking, till I saw comfort from heauen, spreading ouer your head the mantle of prosperitie. In which assurance I bid you farewell;

well; because I fare so well from the assurance, wherby you haue warranted your loue and friendshipp vnto all of vs for cuer.

Yours, most dutifull if you would accept of the humiliation.

To his true helping Friend.

Good Sir, This last was a timely fauour, and represented the first and second raine to a thirstie ground: whereby as you haue afrighted all imputation of formallitie and smoake promises: I haue, and must acknowledge the same as a worthy kindnesse, and duty of a true Gentleman. For howeuer men may runne away with the titles of honour and greatnessse; yet (beleeue it) in the professing of friendshipp, there is a manifest dutie to bee obserued toward the meanest. This caused Poets and Philosophers to describe a friend from the effects of his actions, and suppliment of others in aduersities: this raised the difference betweene a good neighbour and a bad in holy Scripture: this taught the *Italians* to crie out, that *Dono multo aspettato è venduto è non donato*: a gift long expected, is sold and not bestowed as a kindnesse: and this hath taught you the way to true worthinesse, whereby I stand supported by a strong arme, and you remaine exposed to the world, as a faire mouing planet in a serene firmament.

*A thankeful-
nes for a time
ly good turne.*

Your recovered Friend.

To

Letters of Newes.

To his worthy Friend, Aduenturer into
the Straights.

Newes from
Xante and
Candy.

W^Worshipfull Syr : The fame of *Warde* (our English Pyrate) hath the same passage here, as all rumors commonly enter into : so that if there be the least certaintie of some occurrences, many lyes shall bee augmented, and a mint of foolish triuiall absurdities set on worke: but because there is but one Truth, and that you expect something at my handes may come somewhat neere the same, I will deliuer what I knowe of my selfe, and am enformed from others: Out of the closet then of mine owne knowledge, I gather thus much, that beeing in *Xante*, and attening my passage for *Constantinople*, certaine *Italian* shippes bound for *Cyprus* & *Scanderon*, durst not styrre out of harbour for feare of *Warde*, who was supposed to lye on the other side of an *Island* called *Sapientia*, and watched but the opportunitie of their setting forwards: which they so procrastinated for feare of surprising, that two English ships went to *Candy* , vnladed their goods , made vp theyr acounts, and came backe againe for *Currens* at *Xante* , before the other could ouermaster their feare, or durst make tryall of their fortune : but when these shippes had made relation of a newe merchant man of *London* , cast away on the coast of *Candy* for want of a good Pilote , or orderly direction to preuent a northeast wind, which is most dangerous at the spring of the ycare, wee were somewhat perplexed, and the Pois were sent immediately ouer-land, to aduertise the marchants not to come into the straights, so slenderly prouided as they did. For questionles since our peace with *Spaine*, diuers of your company presuming on the same, haue imprudently set out weake shipping, and

flen-

slenderly prouided; so that what with piracy, shipwracke, and the *Florentines*, and *Malteses*, wee lost more within these fие yeares, then we did in fortie before, when wee stood on our guard, & prepared to encounter with exper-
ted foes. From the aduertisemenrs, of others we gather to-
gether abundell of these occurrences, that *Ward* had the
fortune to take a *Venitian Galeas*, which hee brought into
Tunis, & had raised an estate by it, but that it miscarried in
harbour; that he liued there in great feare & iealousie, both
of the *Bashaw*, whom he was faine to bribe extraordinari-
ly; of the Turkes, whom he onely corrupts with reward; &
of his owne followers whom hee suspected vpon the least
discontentment would betray him to the *Venetian*, or send
him to his Maiesties Embassadours: as for that smoaky re-
port he carryed, it is nothing so; onely he liues in a house
when he comes on shore, and is reasonable politike, if he
had any wealth, not to make shew of it for feare the *Ianisa-
ries* themselues should rob him altogether. But in truth
the spoyle hath bene farre greater of his piracies, then the
goods orderly brought to land, and out of them so ma-
extractions, as there can little remaine to his owne
share. For by that time the *Bashaw* is compounded with:
the charges defrayed, the Turkes payed, and his owne
company contented, there will be such an abatement, that
out of ten thousand pound, his share and part groweth to
an height of pride, if it raise it selfe to fие hundred pound:
and how deereley he must liue in the rate of housekeeping,
euery passenger can tell. Concerning your particular busi-
nesse, your factor both in *Xante* and *Candy* hath sent you
many letters and bils, which I leaue with this of mine to
receiue speedy dispatch and orderly pardon, if any errors
are committed.

Yours undiuined, though farre off.

O

To

Newes from
Constanti-
nople.

To his noble Friend, S. I. S.

Worthy Sir; There need no filling a letter of newes, with preamble, complement, or circumstance, and therefore I will onely tell you, I am proud of any remembrance, when I expose your worth, to my conceyt, & glad of any good fortune, when I can auoyd the imputation of ingratitude, by acknowledging your many fauors, and writing the same vnder my hand and seale: This I will doe still, euен in this letter from Constantinople, entreat you to admit of my coustome, and pardon me, if I take the plaine high-way of reciting particulars: without stepping into any ambiguous nookes of phrases, and eloquent aduantages: I came then to Const: in Aug: and found syr Tho: Glou-
er, and his Ladie so well settled, in an horiourable corres-
pondencie to their estates, that I was proud in my coun-
treys behalfe, that a man had raised his Fortunes merely by worthinesse and desert; and a woman had shewed such an heroick spirit, that she was neuer distempered with the tediousnes of her iourney, nor affrighted, though she met with Cap: *ward*, at the passage to *Nigroponte*: For whē M. Clarke the master of the Ship & she went in, they disputed the matter, as if it were *ward* indeed, and seeming to make a stoppe at the same, shee tolde him, there was no remedie but to fight, and hee might be made for euer, if he had the good fortune to bring his fame on the ground, and deliuier our Confederates from so great a feare: — Touching the Cittie it selfe, it is in a manner a Triangle, double walled, with beautifall Towers, and may resemble a painted Cur-
tezan, deceiuing you, with sophysticate comelinessse, and adulterate shewes, but within corrupted, and full of confu-
sion

sion and beastialtie : yet are many excellent things remarkable in the same : namely, within the Towne it selfe, called of the Turkes *Stanbole*, or comely : the Turkes, *Seratio*, or Pallace, containing two miles about : the seauen Towers, a goodly Prison towardes the South-East : the Wall it selfe, without any Suburbes : the *Mosquees*, or *Churches*, to the number of 800. amongst whome, the *Sophia*, *Almorata*, and *Sultanina*, are the principall beautifull Fabrickes ? the *Besisteine*, a place like our Exchange, or *Rialto* at *Venice*, for delicate commodities : but for aduantage, there are men and women folde, like horses in Smithfield.

The *Jewes* Sellers are all vnder-ground, with iron gates, where the whole treasures of the Common-wealth are secured, both from Fire and Earth-quakes : the Conduits of water at many corners of streets, where a kinde of Officer attends, to giue to all commers. Diuers monumets of Porphyrie, Brasse, Marble, Obeliscos, Pyramides, and such like, shewing some face of Antiquitie, and placed where the auncient Greeks were woont to celebrate their Turniaments. The *Balneas*, which through corruption of time, and manners, are meere Brothells and stewes : The *Bashawes* houses, Pallaces of state, and of great capacitie: as containing diuers places of sequestration, according to their number of Viues & Concubines, which they main-taine. A place called *Iobs-Toombi*, celebrated for the buriall of the Emperours children.

Diuers *Serialias* for men and women, as Hospitalls, to keepe them till they come to age. *Constantines* Pallace, and the *Patriarkes* houses, as solet edifices, and shewing the ruines of time, and memorable Antiquities: the guard of *Ianissaries*, to the number of 50000, when the Armie is at home, and the burying places, both of *Jewes* and Turks,

remote, at least a mile from the Wall, and superstitiously, Dedicated to the memorie of the dead. Without the Citie, the admirable hauen, called *sacra porta*, 20. fadome deepe, close to the wall of both the Cities.

Galata, a Citie walled ouer against *Constantinople*, onely diuided by sea, as broad as our *Thames*: the vines of *Pera*, a great Suburbes to the same, where the *English*, *French*, and *Venetian* Embassadours were resident. Towards the North, the *Arſinall* of galleys, toward the South, the office of artillerie, called *Tapinau*: the paſſage to *Pompeyes* pillar, and the blacke tower, 20. mile orderly, beautified with *Bashawes* houses, and other edifices, proud of comely exornation, till you enter the blacke-Sea it ſelſe, which exten- deth a great breadth northwardes, and a 1000. mile to the East, as farre as *Trebizond*.

But if you would heare of a worke of wonder and magnificence, you must ride into the Countrey, ſome 15. miles off, and ouer-looke the *Aqua-ductus*, which are raifed in the Valleyes, to the topes of certaine hilles, about 500. foote high, and ſo carrie the water leuell, from one to another, till they fall into a Cesterne: from whence it hath a paſſage through diuers Pipes, to many Conduicte in the Citie.

I dare not enlarge my Letter greater, with theſe triuiall things, because I knowe you haue read many diſcourses more peculiare and pertinent, and expect at my hand a farther diſcouerie, when we ſhall meeete at more conuenient leiferue.

Yours, amongſt Infidells.

To

To his respected worthy Friend, Sir L.

VWorthy Sir, I was almost ashamed to write any thing from these parts, as newes, or matter worth the inquiring after, but that I receiued a letter from you while I was in *Scio*, which seemed to command me, and taught me the way of good manners to satisfie your pleasure. I would hasten to an end, lest some curious eye make a tush at these papers, when they examine, that I would fill a letter with such poore and common intelligences. I then came to *Scio*, of purpose to tarry for maister *Bradshaw*, whom we expected from *Scandaron*, but such was the miserie and trouble of these times and places, that the *Florentines* and *Maltefis* had sent out diuers ships to intercept the transportation of Turkes in any Christian vessell whatsoeuer, and lighting vpon him, put him to a dangerous fight, in which hee was sorely wounded, and had much adoe to come off with vtter destruction: so wee lost our passage, and spent our money in this Iland, where the Greekish women are extraordinarily beautifull, rich, and handsome: and the English Marchant liueth at great expences not daring to trust any of vs without good billes of Exchange, or good sufficient assurance of a better estate, then most commonly a traueller can enlarge. Wee did also heare that Maister *Pindar* our Consull at *Aleppo*, behaued himselfe very worthie of the best report indeede, and had much adoe in those Turkish tumults for to saue his life, and keepe the towne and Merchants from spoylling. Befides, at *Scanderon* a most intricate businesse about Maister E, a Merchant,

and a Frenchman, who had contracted a bargaine for Gawls to the valew of 10000. dollers, raised his fame for the well contriuing, in sauing all their liues. For the Turkes maintaining iustice in the strictest manner, and punishing the least corruption that way with death, found an occasion to bring these parties to iudicall triall, because it was supposed, that the Moore which sold them was deceiued in the weight by a corrupted Turke, who was the officer of the customes, and broken vpon the wheele vpon the first complaint: so that there was a present demand of the like iustice both on the English and French merchants; and was not determined without a great summe of money, and bribing the *Bashaw*: wherein there was no other face of preuention to be seene, then disbursment of a fine, and acknowledging a fault, and so with great difficulty the matter was concluded. About the same time Master M. hauing beene some two yeare before surprised by the *Malteeses*, and then protesting neuer to be so ouermasted, or ouer-shot, vndertooke a dangerous encounter betweene *Sicilia* and *Candy* with a *Venetian Galeas*, in a shippe called the *Corslet*. For comming toward the gulph, & hauing some vncustomed, or peraduenture prohibited goods aboord: as also neglecting those nauall and marine ceremonies appropriate to the State, hee held it stubbornly out, rather then he would be searched, or abased in vailing his bonet, and so the fight continued a whole day, till he was hurt, & many of his men slain, but being taken and ouer mastered he was carryed to *Venice*, where with much adoe his libertie was obtained, to the great honour of Sir *Henrie Wotton* our Embassador, and contentment of the merchants, both here and at home.

Your memorable friend.

To

To the Worthy Doctor, T.

Reuersend Sir, While I lay ill at ease in *Meteline*, I recei- Newes from
Meteline.
ued a letter from you, by the hand of Sir H. B. as hee
came a shore to see the Iland, and belike taking easie iour-
neys in a Turkish Carmisan, heard at *Gallipolis* and the ca-
stles, that I was sicke there. Notwithstanding, I raised vp a
pale face with a chearefull heart, and vnderstood by the
same, that you desired a kinde of account concerning the
Greeke Church, and Turkish gouernment. Truly your let-
ter was most acceptable vnto me, as vnderstanding there-
by the health of him I loue so well: but the contents af-
frighted me, as knowing nothing could come from mee
worthy your view, or bearing any shew of delight, especi-
ally satisfaction, considering the iudicious apprehension
and great reading of the receiuer: yet againe, when I knew
(if the worst fell out) I was to encounter with loue, and ci-
uill acceptation, I tooke aduantage of a day wherein my
Feauer did not rage, and thus huddled vp this vnfashiona-
ble peece, which if it resemble the confused lumpe, where-
in nature helpeth the Beare in the deliurance of her bur-
thē, you must with her industrie, either reduce it to fashiō,
or your owne goodnesse winke at the deformities. I will
therefore begin with the Greekes, who are so enuious and
malignant toward the Latines, that they had rather liue in
seruitude vnder the Turkes, then require either aide or as-
sistance of the Romish Bishop, contesting with him euen
from prioritie of place, and auncient possession of the
Christian religion: so that in their account hee is but a
meere vsurper of their glory and promotion, which hee
hath ouermantled with diuises and mens traditions, that
neither they can acknowledge him a father in the true
Church, nor he them, as obedient children to his holy.

Constito-

Consistory. Concerning their ciuill gouernment, it is a meere mangled body. For no man possesseth either lands, goods, or scarcely their liues in securitie; but either the Turkes command makes them slaues, or the *Timariots* or quartering of souldiers by the name of *Capodes*, or *spahies* subiecteth all to licentiousnesse and incontinencie: they haue no munityed cities, but vpon the frontires of *Transiluania* and *Hungary*, nor permitted the possession of armour or munition: onely *Gratianopolis*, *Andrinopolis*, *Philopolis*, *Salenica*, *Galipolis*, and some townes in the Ilands are populous and ful of Edificies, but farre from their ancient beauty, or other cities of *Europe*. To conclude in a word, they are the meere pictures of miserable confusion, and ruines of time. Concerning their religion, it is so corrupted with age & pride of preeedency, that it will entertaine no reformation; saying plainly, that *Antioch* was the first Christian Church, and the Greeks made the sheepe of Christ's fold before euer *Paul* was carryed prisoner to *Rome*: as for *Peters* persecution, or being there at all, they absolutely deride it: and assure vs, that he was twenty year elders of *Antioch*, and appointed the Apostle ouer the Iewes. In pouer- tie they almost come neere the Primitiue Church. For their Monasteries are much diminished, and their Churches and Congregations very small, and of little entrade: they denie purgatory, and the Popes supremacy, saying plainly, that if such a title were extant or necessary, it belonged to *John* Patriarch of Constantinople, with whom *Gregory* the Great of Rome, had many encounters to supprese that tumour: they baptise with oyle and water, haue foure Lents, fast precisely, weare long haire like the Nazarites, allow of no Saints but in the Bible, nor haue pictures in the Church but from thence: yet do they celebrate certaine feasts to Saint *George*. *Nicholai* and *Demetrius*, they are much giuen to mirth, and excede in contraries. For

at

at their mariages they haue great pleasure and pastime: in their buryall great sorrow and lamenting, euen to the graweling on the ground, and watching night and day ouer the graues. Many Countreys acknowledge their religion, as *Russia, Georgia, Mengrelia, Armenia*, and the people of *Æthyopia*, vnder *Prester-Jean*: Of whose particulars, you haue whole volumes; Amongst whom an vnderstanding wit may select the best, though many absurdities are entermingled with some truthes.

Concerning this Turkish gouernment, neuer came Monarchy to the height of such a preuailing. For there is no subiect of hereditary eminence but himselfe, and this *Emperor Sultan Achmat*, is the 14. of the house of *Othoman*: the doctors of their Law called *Alcharon*, and the *Mufti* the principall Priest, rule the Empire, although it seeme managed vnder the gouernment of the 5. *Vizeeres*, & other *Bashaws*: the strength of his kingdome is meerly supported by the *Ianissaries* & souldiers, who are the sonnes of Christians, and depend vpon the pleasure of their Emperour, as without eyther Friend or Parent, but the Turkes pension: They loue Iustice: punish Adultry with death: hate Drunkennes, and Blasphemy: doe nothing but to purpose: eate no swynes-flesh: nor should drinke any wine: They weare long garments: neuer vncouer the head, which is all shauen, except one locke on the toppe, by which they suppose to be pulled vp to heauē by *Mahomet* their great prophet: They haue many wiues & cōcubins to preuēt adultry: they write bias, and read backward, as the Hebrues; and neglect all languages but their owne, *Persian*, and *Arabian*: None but of *Mahomet*s race weareth greene, and all are obedient to their *Bashaws*: & they absolute slaues to the Emperour; For their religion, it is full of great reuerence: They call to their churches or *mosquées* 4. times a day, by the voyces of men, on the top of a tower: and on friday (their sabbath)

5. times: No liuing thing is pictured or engrauen in theyr churches or *mosques*, to auoyde idolatry. The principall Priest is the *Musti*, of great account with the Emperour: For he & the doctors of their law, ouer-rule in many ciuill things. The order of *Deruices* is suitable to the *Capuchine* friers, and are called *Turners*: They allow God the Father, but denye the *Trinitie*: They reuerence the three professors of the three religions: *Moyses* for the Iewes: *Christ* for the Christians: & *Mahomet* for themselues: They hate in others prophanation or blasphemy, and obserue naturalls, mad-men, and fooles: They bury their dead with a singing noyle, and watch ouer the graues, with mourning & howling. Infinit other particulars may be obserued, but these shall suffice, till a larger discourse can bring mee within the reach of your acceptation, and shewe, how I haue not employed my time amisse: and am willing to gine you notice of the same; whome of all other men I would content in this kinde.

Yours, with a true heart.

*Newes from
Multa.*

To his honorable Friend, Captaine S.

MY noble Companion, without further compleiēt; when we parted from *Messina*, you for *Venice*, and I for *Constantinople*: Newes came to our *English Consull*, that the *Vineyard* (a ship of *London*) was surprised by the *Malteses*, the goods confisicate, and one *Harris* the Maister, terribly threatned, for transporting Munition, or other prohibited merchandise to the *Turks*: wherein the *Gran-Prior* is to resolute, that he hath presumed to write into *England*, to iustifie the action: and added withall, that the next offender shall loose ship and all. For you must consider, that there is a kinde of *Confederacie* betweene the *Pope*, the *Duke of Florence*, and these *Malteses*, gainst the *Turke*: and whereas all other Princes are now as it were vnder a protection of a *peace*,

peace: these onely dare to proclaime a warre: And what they cannot perform with the brauery of open hostilitie at land, they will execute with the cunning of priuate surprises at Sea: and by reason the Knights of the *Rhodes* abated their florishes in the losse of that *Island*, they are retyred to *Malta*, to recouer their credit: & euer since that happy repulsing the Turkes, by that miraculous defending their citie and Castle, haue stood at defiance, both with this enemie of Christians, & all such as shall support him, to make him a stronger enemy, then they suppose he can be of him selfe: And heerein the Pope is so charitable, that he blesseth their enterprises, and encourageth many Gentlemen, (of diuers Nations) to enrowle themselues vnder the *Holy Banner*: & account it a glorie to be a true Souldier for religion: So that a Knight of *Malta* holdeth vp a countenāce of such reputation, that hee supposeth his Honour to precede any temporall dignity vnder a Baron: and the *Gran-prior* himselfe will not abate a iote of a Princes estimation.

Yours for euer, though we never meeete againe.

To his approued Friend, G. A. Esq.

Good Syr: There is no one thing in the world, in which I desire to haue an honorable contention with you, as in curtesie and good conditions: So that whether it be emulation, or a naturall motion to doe well, I care not: but am assured you haue exposed such a pattern of true friend-shipe, that I must answer the proportion, and frame my selfe to an orderly satisfaction: you haue loued mee, therefore I must affect you: you haue visited me, therfore I must not see me strange: you haue bene bountifull, therefore I must be thankfull: you haue written, and therfore I must answer: yea, and that from *Venice*, the wonder of *Europe*, and the glorie of *Italie*: where I haue encountered with Newes,

*Newes from
Venice.*

which I am proud to make you partaker of: because within the memorie of man, neuer was so remarkable an accident. Know then, that after the Pope had swelled, with the repining against the *Venetian* contumacy, Frier *Paul* of the order of *Serui*, was cōdemned for an heretike, burnt in his image at *Rome*, and attēpted many times to be murthered: his offence raised si om certaine books against the Popes secular iurisdiction, ouer Princes and free states: his discourses grounded on the loue of his Countey, at such time as the *Venetians* determined a stopping of certaine *Mortmaines*, with pretences of money satisfaction: least time and seduction should weaken their glorie by diminishing their lands, & giuing away their territories to monasteries: his reward, an annuall pention of 500. ducates, and glorious Title by sound of Trumpet of *7 heologo designato*: At which the Clergie so stormed, that they made it a matter of treason, against God and his Angells, thus to extenuate the authoricie of the Mother-Church, by such presumptuous restraints, against the will & pleasure of the Pope and his Cardinall. Wherevpon, without further disputing, a feuere fulmination passed forth against them: which also so vilipended them, that fier & sword was proclaimed, and nothing but submissiō and absolution could deliuer them from the sauage stroakes of reuenge.

This so startled the *Venetians*, and rowfed vp the drowsie eyes of other Princes, that they al looked vp to see with what face these controuersies and accidentall displeasurcs, would terrifie the world: and not contented with verball protestations, they mustred their Armies, and at my coming into *Italie*, I heard nothing else but the clamours of warre, and warre against the Pope himselfe. In which hurliburly, a noble man of *Venice*, of the house of *Donatus* now Duke, hauing bene long since *Bandited* by the State, for murthering a Gentl: to whose wife loue had formerly

enthralled him, determined to worke out his reconciliati-
on, by prostrating his seruice to the State: and attending
the same (if need and occasion required) with 50. Horsm:
at his owne charge; and because they should not lay im-
putation vpon him offormalitie, and ceremonious braue-
rie, from winde and smoake, he brought them by Sea into
the Citie it selfe, and had licence to make a Martiall shew
before the Ladies and better sort of the people: And thus
in a sequestred place, at their *fundamento nuono*, he mustred
50. Horsm: with reasonable equippage, and proportiona-
ble discipline, which was neuer seene in *Venice* before.
For there is neither horse nor cart, neither fresh-water, nor
wholsome-ayre, neither sword nor cloake for the Gentl: of
Venice himselfe: nor any pleasant walke to passe the time
with recreation, more then the delicate entertainment in
their *Gondolas*, and some comicall showes on their *Grand-
Canal*: Amongst which, the rarest that euer I sawe, was a
costly and ostentous triumphe, called a *Regatto*, presented
on the *Grand-Canal*, to entertaine the Princes of *Piedmont*
and *Mantua*, who came hither of purpose to see the Citie,
and the pleasures of the same: which I must needs say for
liberty of life and conscience, *Curtesans*, *Mountebanks*, *Mus-
sike*, and *Monasticall* presumption, surpasseth any Citie in
the world. The shew it selfe was briefly thus: divers young
Gentlem: according to their abilitie and willingnes, were
selected by the order of their Balls, as Capt: of severall
Barges, which were decked vp in orderly representations, of
whales, yncornes, dolphins, elephants, woods, fountaines,
and such like: wherein all the Marriners and attendants,
with severall warlike instruments, and musicke of lower
sound, were placed, both for ornament, glorie, magnifi-
cence, and adapted congruity, to the thing they attended:
and thus they passed all in order, 2. English mile in length,
vnder the *Rialto*-bridge: attended with infinite *Gondaloes*,

and Boates, who rowed for wagers, and striued for the
matrie of the best and speediest passage.

Yours, in all places and times.

To his honourable Friend, S. I.

Newes from
Turine.

Vorthy Syr: I perceiue by you, that wise men will
smile sometimes, and the best grauitie can giue
care to triuiall discourses: yea, and I am afraid, tis mans
naturall imperfection, to hunt after Nouelties, and the
minde is much delighted with varietie: else could you ne-
uer haue giuen way vnto such triuiall letters as I sent you,
and with a kinde of cheerfulness welcomm'd them, dis-
coursing onely of the passages of *Sauoy*, the height of the
Alpes, the snowe in *Julie*, the falling of the water with such
impetuosity, & dangerous rupture, the pines on the moun-
taines, the plowing on the hilles, the strength of the Fortes
and Raimparts: especially *Agabella*, *Mount-Melian*, *Mo-
riana*, and *Saint Katherines*: and the brauery of the *Spa-
nish Garrisons* in those parts.

Because therefore I perceyue you of such faire de-
meanour, and willingnesse to support your Friend in his
weaknesse: I will goe forward in my passage of thankful-
nes. and make you beleue I write to you still more for
to expresse my loue, then come neere your satisfaction:
Beleeue it then how-euer, I haue seene the admirable
Castles of the *Hellespont*, which be the keyes, to open and
shut in the glorie and strength of the Turkish Empire, the
naturall scituuation of *Corfu*, the Forte of *Xante*, the *Citta-
dell* of *Naples*, the many Fortifications of *Italie*, and other
strengths of *Sicilia*, *Rhodes*, *Cyprus*, and such like: yet may
none

none of these compare with the Castle of *Millaine*, for Garisons glorie, greatnesse, Munition, Bulwarkes, Counter-scarphs, Casamattes, and all things pertaining to the managing of Martiall ostentation, and Military necessitie: So that this one place is the Anchor-holde of the Spanyards usurpation in *Italie*: and the affrighting countenance, which keepeth many worthy Princes and Prouinces in awe, from attempting an inuasion in the Gouvernement, howeuer their hearts are affected, if any mischiefe should burst out against him: and this is most apparant in *Sauoy* it selfe: For the Spanyard vnderstanding of a contract betwene *Piedmont* & *Mantua*, with an other combination of *Modena*, sent diuers agēts to *Turine*: yea, employed many Knights of *Malta*, and the better sort of *Genoa*, to worke a means, that the *Sauoyen* Princes might be sent into *Spaine*, vnder the tuition of the Grandes and Cleargie: To which when the Secretary seemed to encline, he was imprisoned for his Spanish affection: and till the Cardinals *Aldabraydino* and *Cesario*, with the Popes *Nuntio*, had streightened these crooked measures, and confirmed the Italian marriages, vni cleased: But the truth is, that, concerning the displeasure which these great personages beare one another, it ariseth both from couetousnesse and ambition.

For the *Sauoyen* hauing marryed a Daughter of Spayne, and seeing long since the *Enfanta* quietly settled in the pride of the feuenteeue Prouinces: much repined, that eyther *Naples* or *Millaine*, especially *Millaine* for the proximitie, was not proportioned vnto him. And so, as (farre as hee durst, or could,) both repined against the same: and hath laboured with his Holynesse to be led, and inuested in a greater field of dominion and soueraigntie. But for all this, I am resolued, no one thing troubles him more, then the escape of *Genova*, from his proud attempts, and reaches.

So that if cyther pollicie, or strength could preuaile, with time and successe, to make him maister of the same, hee would quietly cast himself into the armes of contentment, and seeme proud in the glory of such an atchieuement.

Your euerlasting Friend.

Newes from
Zidon, and
Ierusalem.

To his especiall Friend, Capt: Abr: Yo.

Noble and worthy Friend: you and I may well vent out the breath of coimmon prouerbs, that men may meet, but not Mountaines. For as I remember, we embraced in *France*: raunged ouer *Ireland*: yea, stamped in the durt, at *Kinsale*: encountred in *Germany*: saluted one another in *Italie*: played the wantons at *Venice*: and diuided our selues againe; as if the armes of the north & south, should open a larger embracing: For you prepared for *Sweden* and *Ruscia*: and I for *Zidon*, & the bottom of the streights; where I receyued a letter from you so compendious and well compacted, that I protest I made vse, concerning the occurrences of those times and places: and receyued delight from your inuention and phrase: not desisting, till I read and read it againe and againe; but when I came to your demaund of another of mine, for particulars, concerning the passage to *Ierusalem*, I started backe, as if I had seen an adder in a path, and was afraid, as if some mischiefe indeed were threatned or intended; Not that there was any difficultie in writing to my *Friend*, a Souldier and apprehensiuue man, who could both pardon out of loue, and bearewith imperfections out of fauour: but because the papist will repine at my truth; the traueller complaine of my simpicitie; and the curious desirer of Nouelties make a tush at my information: For good Syr, howeuer the Templars out of their pollicie, and imposturing cunning, erected a kinde of structure, to make *Ierusalem* looke with some face of nouelty, and framed a Vault, in which they

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deceiued the world, with the Tombe of our Sauiour: So that the adulterate daughter of religion,superstition,filled their Monastery and pallaces with infinite wealth and Ornaments, wherewith they made libertie and licentiousnes wanton with custome,& filthy abuses: and for which they were condemned by a general councell, and the Papall decree: aud howeuer some corrupted Pope hath since giuen way to diuers Pilgrimages, and permitted certain friers to reuiue former memories, and gather togerher the scattred stones of the first Monastery, whereby there is a way open to simple credulity,to belieue some thing,& pay much for the same: yet without controuersie, since the last deuastation, and that the Turke hath piece-meale rent asunder the goodly edifices of those places, as wee were woont to exclaim *Nunc seges ubi Troia fuit*: now corne growes where *Troy* stood: we may well crie out, now are there heapes of daul,& some barren vines where *Jerusalem* florished: and according to his prophecie, that cannot erre, there is not one stone left vpon another: only the crafty Turks, & the couetous *Bishaw* of *Aleppo*, the gouernor of those parts, are contented to beare with things euен contrary to the lawes of their *Alcheron*,impugning altogether the Godhead and incarnation of *Christ*: as the *Jews* against his pouerty and humiliation: & for great sums of mony,& *annuall entrado*, suffer stil diuers friers & religious persons to entertain pilgrims,trauellers, ignorant deuotists,superstitious papists, and simple credulists, with impudēt,lying,& deceitfull relicks. For otherwise if riuers might be turned, there is neither shew of *Citie*,temple,edifice,nor the *brooke* *Zidon* it self: no, an vnderstanding man dare not say (by any seēming probability) that it is the same ground where *Jerusalē* was builded,& the glory of the *Jewes* established; nor is there one *Jewe* remaining, nor honest man to maintain a veritie: yet is *Zidon* a harbour town, some 28. *English* mile frō the

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same:

same: & after the traueller or Marchāt hath performed his devotion, for great hyre, certaine guides & *Ianissaries* will conuoy him to *Gran Cayro, Arabia, Persia, Damasco*, or whither you please: so that sometimes you shall haue 400. camells laden with prouision, merchandize, & men, to take a iourney into *Persia*, and *Ormus* in the mouth of those Seas, against the fishing for Pearle: sometime the Christian for nouelties sake, will apparel himselfe like a Turk, with a *Turban*, to view the city of *Mecha* in *Arabia*, where *Mahomet* was entombed: Sometimes the passage is made easie into *Ægypt*, and wee come this way to *Nylus*, from whence by Boate wee visite *Cayro, Alexandria*, and *Athyopia* it selfe. Sometimes we take another course, & goe by sea to *Scanderen* and *Aleppo*, and so trauell by *Damasco* to *Babylon* and *Armenia*: and sometimes haue the fortune to go to *Tauris*, and those places neere the *Caspian-Sea*: but this is very seldome, and neuer but when 4. or 500. Merchants make themselues strong, both in arms and prouision. For otherwise the Thieues of those places, especially *Arabia*, would make a prey and spoyle of all passengers. This is all I can say, this is all I dare write, for feare of interruption: but it euer the sunne will make our shadowes mee in England, I will iustifie further particulars, and make you wonder, that so many wise and vnderstanding men as haue bene in these partes, will bee transported against the veritic of *Scripure*, and the infallible congruitie of iudgement and reason.

My owne, in your memorie.

To his worthy Friend, M. T.

Good Syr, I neuer had such cause to remember the Philosophers Banquet, as when I lay in *Nicosia* in *Cyprus*. *Newes from Cyprus.*
For as I take it, *Epictetes* hauing inuited certain *Stoyck* philosophers to dinner: for a latter bāquetting-dish brought out the globe of the world: & after they had called a counsell, *Epictetes* ouercouerd it with a fooles-cappe, whereat *Heraslites* wept bitterly, and *Democrites* laught heartily.

The first bewalling the miserie, the latter, deriding the vanitie of the same: but if they had liued in *Cyprus*, and seene such confusion of gouernmeut; all yet ouershadowed with the Canopy of order and obedience to the State, it would questionlesse haue put them cleane out of patience, and turned their myrth into sorrow, and their sorrowes into raging and phrenzie. For the *Bashaw* expecting nothing but Tribute and legall iurisdiction, is carelesse how other Nations eyther liue with vpright conscience, or thriue with lawfull profite: So that the better sort practise what they list, because no man dare controwle, and inferiours follow all libertie and licentiousnes, because the others make way with ill example: The church-men confirme religion, but for pollicie, and are onely proud: they can terrifie the simple with feare of damnation, and dazell the eyes of the ignorant with the gawdy colours of superstition. The *Jewe* is grown so cruell in his usurie & extortion, that wheras before it was much to forfeit goods and lands, now hee exacts vpon their very flesh and blood: glorying at nothing more, then to see penurie and wants cate vp a Christian: and coldnesse of charitie trouble his very soule. The Lawyer insults with the peace of the time, and to wring the gold out of mens purses, wrests the Law to theyr owne Fancies: so that they iustifie their actions

onely with legall authority. The Cittizen is bountifull in faire words, and so hee may make his merchandize vendable, hath learnd the tricke of *equiuocating*, and deceyuing his best customers. The crafts-man studieth for nothing, but to be craftie in his cunning. The *Courtezan* resembles the horsleach, who neuer falls off till he be full: and when hee hath suckt the blood from the veynes, leauies a man to looke pittifullly, on his sores and deformity. The Souldier sweates with rage, at that hee cannot remedie, and curseth peace, because it warres with his profit, nor will apprehend any goodnes, but in the ill of licentiousnes.

The *Noble-women* study for nothing but to seeme not to bee honest, yet haue they a clawfe to affright inferiors for calling their actions in question: so giuing the more scope to their greatnes, to runne the more at randon in pleasure. The *Turkish* wiues vnderstanding these particulars, repine at their Prophet, & so murmur at their sequestration, that to haue some vse of the world, they visite the *Balneas*, come to buy iewells, make maskes in *English* attyre; vse perfumes, and rather then they will not please themselues, allure their very slaues to carnall pleasure.

To conclude, if euer the Diuell compassed the earth, and considered men, to make them subiects of hell, *Cyprus* is now a patterne; and the *Turks* there despise their *Alcazen*: the *Leue* smileth at their Religion: the *Christian* derideth the scripture, and all men and people make a mocke of purity and sanctifying graces, or the true-way to saluation: So that I am weary of this prophane countrey, and desire nothing more then the blessednesse of our owne *England*, where the very soyle is the reviuer of our spirits, and good gouernment the load-starre to eternall felicitie.

Yours, in the midst of temptation.

A Dumpy or Passion.

I cannot sing; For neither haue I voyce,
Nor is my minde nor matter Musicall:
My barre pen hath neither forme nor choyce
Nor is my tale, or tales-man comicall,
Fashions and I were never friends at all:
I write, and credit that I see, and knowe,
And meane plaintroth; would every one did so.

I cannot faine mee unto subtile faction,
No prompt affection to an idle ghost,
Nor doe I fauour any in detraction,
Nor do I praise them, that themselues do boast
Small fire sufficeth unto littler roast:
A poor mans tale's soon told, as soon reproon'd
Never assisted, though never so much soothd.

For credite is not of a common stampe,
The fairest gamesters are not alwayes winners:
The strogiest ioynts are troubled with the cramp
And many good men are reputed sinners,
Yet shallow feords seem best for yong beginners.
The water's surest, where we feele the ground
But all are not as safe as they besound.

Conceyt's a current forcible and deepe,
Simplicitie a shiflesse shipp of feares:
A man may dream amisse, & sinke asleepe,
And foxes may accuse the asses eares:
Patience and plaineesse euer burdens beares:
And best they may, For customs doth invreit,
And he is fit to beare that will endure it.

Not every stomacke brookeith every meate,
A dainty mouth can ill affect plaine fare:
All appetites at all times cannot eate,
Nor compleat merchant that hath every ware
Nor thrives hee euer that doth euer care:
"Wishers and woudlers practise & conspire,
"all haue their hopes, not every hope their hire

For some are blessed, other some corrected,
Some for their worke, and some for their intent:
Nor are all, who our GOD hath made, elected
Nor can all that offend, as well repent:
Nor hath he pardond all, whom he hath shent,
Nor mad them happy, whom he doth forbeare

And so much wiser in so much mistrust, thin
They haue most hope that haue most doubt of
"the best assured hart must haue, or brust,
Bare honesty is poore as Ballet-rime:
And somewhat counted for an heynous crime;
"Yet store's no soare, because the honest-wise,
Arefasted, when they haue what will suffice.
"Content's a roial portion for a Prince,
"A minde at peace excelleth gouernment:
"Hee hath abundance, that hath competence,
"Pleasde is a treasure never to be spent,
"The patient man did never yet repente:
"Nor hepe in vaine, nor yet in vaine repine,
"For sufferance is sufferantly diuine.

And yet it is a kinderance to my Creede,
That neither sexe nor sorts in meanes or minde:
Neither for cause, matter, desert, or deede,
Should haue a care of lye, or loue of kinde,
Lost-labour so to seeke, and such to finde:
Then seeke no more to finde such labours losses
"Tis better not to lye, then lye with crosses.

For touching life, that we doe loue so much,
And court with such variety of fauour:
If that our wisedome and our grace were such
To weigh our losse of time, with losse of labour,
And iudge the mischife of our misbehaviour:
In both the courts of conscience & repentence
Our selues might gine both euidece & sentece
And scape the scrupule of a froward minde,
And clese the filib of our corrupted fense:
And in the molde of vanity soone finde
The foule occasions of our wilde offence,
Purging diseased sinnes with some pretence:
Wherby we lye so wretchedly so wrought on
as neither GOD, nor any good is thought on.

O wicked world! growth of inconstant passions,
Wherein no vertue is at all abiding:
If now at ease, streight sickle at least of fashions,
With whose impatience there is no desiring,
From whose deuises there is no disuising:
Now this, then that ene as the humor breed.

Now honor'd much above our small desert,
Anon more low then is the seruile slau'e:
In whom ther is no hope, no worke, nor Art,
To purchase, or prolong, to wish, or craue;
Oppression's hunble, and opinion's braue:
All things uncertaine: yet most certainetoo
That what so ere Time made, it shall vndoo.

Times past & present, teach vs what's to come
That fraile mortality is as fruitlesse aire:
Thogh much desirde, & honord much by some
By some lesse happy, in as much desfaire,
In some most fowle, in other some most faire:
Most fowl, most fair, most desprat, most desirde
And all but with infestation most inspirde.

So all alike the Noble and the Clowne,
Dye, and with them their deeds, as well as they:
For after-ages put the former downe,
Their murthered monumets haue nought to say
Their beauties with their bodies, ayre, & clay:
Caesar and Alexander, dead & rotten,
The actors and their actions quite forgotten.

Dauid, the Darling of th' Almighties-heart
Predominant in pleasure and in power:
Most worthily, till wickednes did thwart
That heavenly Sunne, with a worldly shou're
The greatest winner hath a loosing hower.
For GOD did never yet make that man lue
That hath not in his life some cause to grieue.

How trust we then to vaine abilitie?
The breath of howrs, & giddy Fortuns fauors:
Whose alterations worke debilitie, howrs,
And our loose-hopes, with lossing happes mistime
hunteh fools, as fools hunte hares with tabers
Beating upon the toppe of stiles and stockes,
Till in the fire of pride they burne like blocks.
Senselesse of all sence, but senselesse pleasure
And that it selfe eu'en as it is affected:
Subscribing onely to the humors leisure,
By which alone they wholly are directed,
Till ill by worse be worthily detected:
Then car'd as little for, as they haue car'd
Thou seele the difference to be spoyl'd, or spar'de.

Beauty and strength are but a vulgar blast,
And shape a subiect vnto every beast:
Euensence it selfe, will leaue our selues at last
When this shall be the subiect of the feast,
That vertues store will never be decrest:
Wher good men may recou't without controule
The golden reckoning of an humble soule.
And to dilate the matter somewhat more,
Let's looke a little ore the world againe:
And see, if that we haue not causes store
to fret our selues, and on our selues complaine,
that any worldly Soyle our soules should staine,
When nothing in the world is good or sure:
ther's nothing good that can the world endure.

Princes of state, the game of Fortunes wheele,
Are treasons subiects, thralls to base despit:
tormented in their soules, when as they feele
A guilty conscience open inward sight
to see, how wrongs haue ouergrown the right:
And how so ere they titles make them proud
Yet must they (dye like me) GO D saies aloud.
Nob'les (the breath of Kings) are vaine in pride
And vuner in opinion of vaine men: (tyde
Siveing with factious hearts gaist wind and
If they be crost, or counterminded, when
The Lyon minge the beasts comes from his den
And peraduenture takes the Ape to play,
Wisen Beasts of nobler kinde are chasde away.

Great Officers (the wantons of the time)
Sifting theyr sences through sleight vanitie:
Teaching poore vertue, that this durt & slime
Must worke our worldly base felicitie,
And further pleasures in iniquitie:
As for the soule, let simple men regard it,
For being simple, simple worths reward it.
Friends yet untryde, like golden hanging fruite
With wordes of fauour, and as smooth as oyle,
Smoake promises to helpe thee in thy suite,
But all to countenance pride, and to beguile
Simplicitie with many a fained smile:
For touch them once, they crumble vnto dust
like burnt cole-fruit, which Tatalus did trust

Acquaintance onely bubbles in the ayre,
Made out of sope and water by young boyes :
Swelling awhile with pleasant shape and faire,
As long as our owne breath augmenteth the toyes,
but blown on burst prouing the selues slight toyes
For if that o r misfortunes are espide,
They quickly shrink, & hang their heads a side.
Children the care of cares, and harts disease
In such a time of brauery and sinne,
Where disobedient sonnes must needs displease,
And daughters faire, themselves to know begin
Seeking a dangerous libertie to winne :
For what a Feuer makes the Father quake,
Whē daughters haſt with fool or whore do take.
Women the tormentors of unſettled hearts,
The very Fewell unto burning lust,
Yet in themſelues doe acte contrary parts,
Against ſuch men as doo them truely truſt,
For if they ſwell with wantonnesſe unburst :
They practiſe flye deceyts : if they be good,
Yet oft with chafings they doe vex thy blood.
Strūpets most dangerous baytes, a burning fire
Blacke coales conſuming, or ſor to beſmeer :
Trothles to truſt, wrought vp with greater hire
A foul conſumption of the ſoule moſt deere,
Yet making boyles and botches to appeare :
O that fond maſt wold line with ſweetned breath
For their darkeſt ſincking houſes lead to death.
Beautie, a pleaſing ornaſment to ſight,
Ordainde to ſhew the Makers noble glorie :
But ſee how Pride and Nature doth delight,
To ouerthrow the goodnes of a ſtory,
Although decaied with time, when head is hory
Yet is it made adulterate by arte,
When a falſe hand hath playde a cunning part.
Opinion is a Monſter amonſt vs all,
Yet doth not terrifie with outward ſhape :
Onely our ſelues doe as we riſe and fall,
After the censures of the people gape,
And therupon by force of vicious rape
Bereauſe ſweete uertue of her chaſtitie,
With anxious hearts ſwelling in vanitie.

Life and the beſt life but a topping tree
Set in the midſt of a conſuſed grange :
Which whē the Lord thinks good he doth agree
to fell, or roote it vp for ſome newe change,
Or trie ſome ſtranger form, by ſuch exchange.
Yea peraduenture burned in the fire,
ſubiects muſt yeld to what their kings require
Apparell monſtrous by our monſtrous wiſs,
Diſguiſing our deſeſts, ſeeking to kyde
Natures deſormitic, when purſe fulfills
An humouroſ wantonnesſe on every ſide :
Yet frō ſubſtantiall truſt moſt largely wide.
For when that we muſt naked goe to graue,
What will become of that wee ſeeme to haue ?
Vertues and vices, neither good nor bad,
But as the owners ſtates giue them their teſt :
For, who in eſtimatiōn can be had,
For greaſteſt vertues if they do not reſt
In weaſth, or good opinion of the beſt :
And vicious who, but he that cannot hide
And keepe his faults from being ſoone eſpide ?
Buildings of ſumptuous coſt, the prey of Fire,
are ſomtimes curſt, with ſobbing poore mes cries :
When to erect what greatneſſe doth deſire
A hundred cottages in ruffiſh lyes,
And many an Orphan unrelieued, dyes :
But where the morter of an houſe is mixt
With blameleſſe bloud, it cannot long be fixt.
Pearls, pretiouſ ſtones, the glaſſe of plētieſ pride
Riches and Friends, unſtaid in mood & minde,
Kinred, but Natures chaffe, Whē they are tride
For they will flye array with ſtormy wiſe,
In whom nor loue, nor truſt at all we finde :
These ſhapefull monſters daily cleer ſo,
as wee can hardly credite, what we know.
The fraudfull Fox deals friendli with her whelps
There is no beaſt that to her owne is cruell :
All things were by creation made for helpeſ
And kinde to kinde is ſtill a friendly iewell :
The Fire doth giue him fire, that giueth Fuell ;
Even there where contraries enſerfe deſpight
Nature in nature teacheth miſt.

Then, if thou wilt be man, and not be kinde,
Disdaine thy needleſſe int'reſt in creation:
Be to iſtruction, deafe, to nature blinde:
With nicrober man nor beast haue conuerſation:
Ab iudon hope of grace, abiure ſaluation:
Be both aliue and dead harmfull and hatefull
Be any thing, if thou wilt be ingratefull.

And lay aside abſurde Affinitie,
Unleſſe to hell thou wilt allye thy ſelſe:
And ſo the Diuell graunt immunitie:
As is thy truſt in him, and in thy wealth.
Abortiue potion of foule poyſoned pelfe:
Sorrow of ſexle, and ſurſet of vilesinne,
Man had benc happy iſt thou haſt not him.

An honest minde in former time did ſhow
More piecie then now the beſt of kinne:
That w. is becauſe the time w. is honest to,
Much better then this age, that wee are in,
Such are the putrefactions of ſinne:
Our almes, our neighbor-hood, our humanity,
Turnd diuell, diſcord, and immanitie.

Neighbour indeed is now by ſtranger nam'de,
Conſer by couſnage, kindenesſe is unknowne:
And friends of friendſhip are ſo much abſamde
As cuſtome hath concluded there is none, (one.
None that doth good, the Psalmitiſt ſaith, not
It is the Prophet, it is G O D, doth ſay it,
And man were much to blame to diſobey it.
As hee's as much to blame that doth believe
Any that liues in ioy, unuſde tomoorne:
Doth loue, can loue, commiserate, or gricue,
Father or brother hapleſſe and forlorne,
For pitty onely is to plenty ſworne:

And hee's a baſtard unto worldy blood,
That doth a poore man eyther grace, or good.
Yet GOD for bid, that GOD ſould cauſer be,
That wee for lacke of knowing him do erre:
He gratiouſ ſuffers, whilſt that graceleſſe wee
His tollerance into negligence trans-ferre,
Wherby it makes the Atheiſt to auerre:
The ſoule of man immortall in the leaſt,

Laſt hodie as it doth in beaſt.

Men cannot doe, what cannot be undone,
Nor ſuffer more then flesh and blood can beare:
Who playes with fortune, ſeldom times hath won
Tis labour loſt to worke againſt the haire,
Then not preuaile, its better to forbeare:
"A thing undone, is eaſily preuented,
Doe to undone is neuer unrepented.

Glorious deſignes are ammeſſed in blood,
The way to greatnes is uneven and hard:
He neuer was that for preſeruent ſtood,
That was not often with miſchaunces barrd,
The body of attempſ haue croſſes ſcarrd:
Who liu'de and ſought for honest labours hyre
And was not forſt to worke it out of Fire.

Courts and occurrenſes of Kings & Paſſaſes,
Where ſome ſoone riſe, to fall againe as fast:
Show the condiuſions of the fallaſes,
Whose fruits doe ſcantly blow before they blaſt,
Planted with care, and with repenſance paſt:
So that co-pare the gains with loſſe ſurmounting
And ſave a labour, and auoyd accounting.

Tis pittie Warre were not at warre with this
But let the worthleſſe Souldier be aduaanced:
The better times made better ſervices,
Where beſt endeuors beſt rewards enhanced,
But now the beſt of Beggars is beſt chaunced:
A heauy Fortune that ſuch hazard yeelds,
Either to ſtarue at home, or die in Fields.

But heare my counſell in a Grand-fires phraſes
All doe amifle, let all amifle amend:
Self ſauing workeſ are beſt deſeruing praife,
And praife on workeſ in prudence done, attend
All actioues are approoed as they end:
Who made the eaſt will fast to mind the pay,
Whē unthriſtſ carenot who the charge defray.
Then ſit the ende is good of theſe my Rimes;
Theyr plainneſſe ſhowes no vainneſſe,
but the Times.

F I N I S.

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